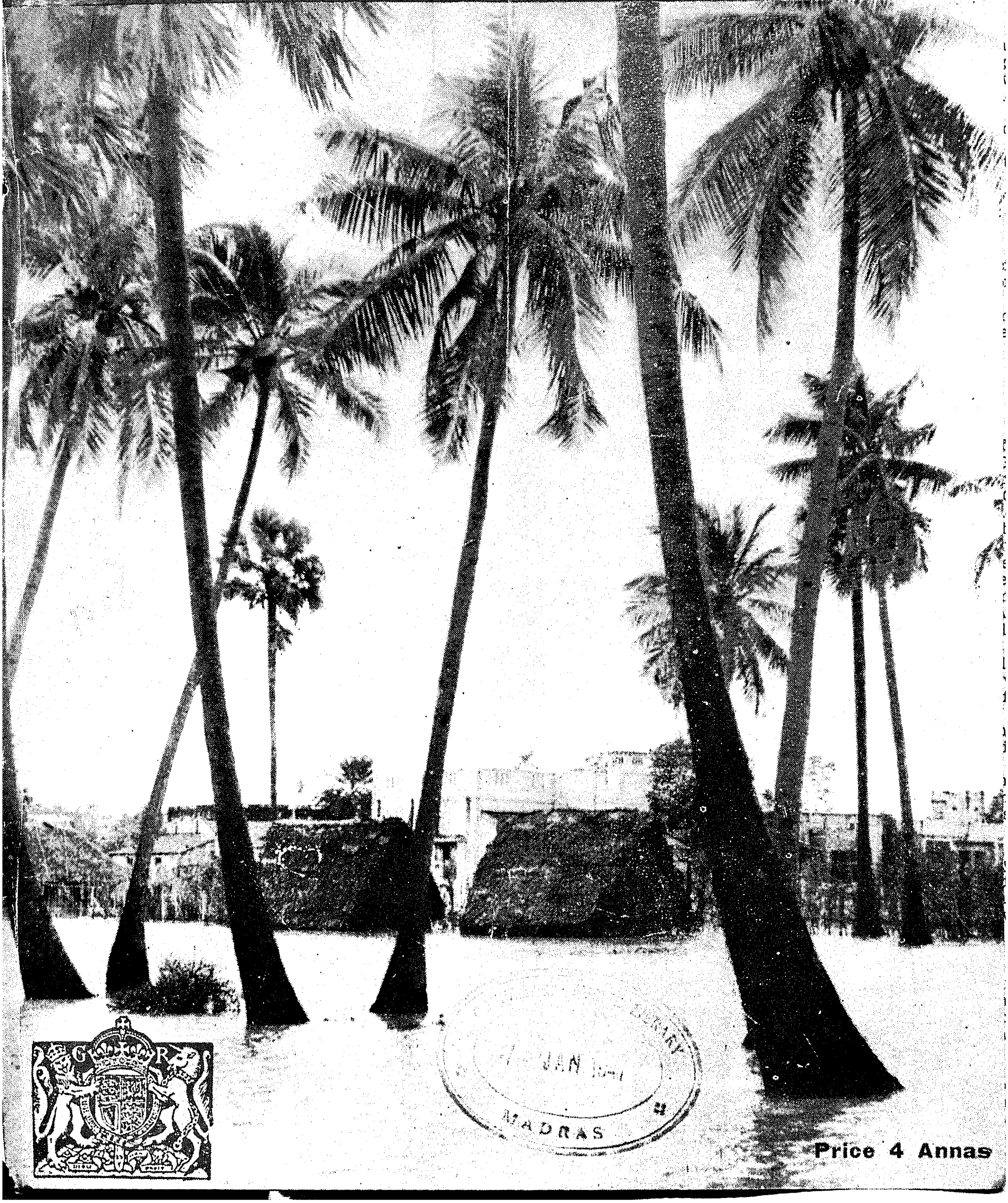
MADRAS INFORMATION



MADRAS

Price 4 Annas

MAIN FEATURES:

(1) Notes And Comments

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Annual	.. Rs. 6
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Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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Owing to the Christmas vacation, there will be no issue of MADRAS INFORMATION for the first fortnight of January, 1947.

MADRAS INFORMATION

Published every fortnight by the Director of Information and Publicity, Fort St. George, Madras.

VOL. I No. 6 — WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE — December 23, 1946

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Increase in Rice Ration

ON account of circumstances beyond their control, the Madras Government have been constrained to postpone the benefit of the decision to increase the rice ration to 10 ozs., per head to the people of certain districts in the province. The postponement will apply to the entire area comprised by the Vizagapatam, Bellary, Cuddapah, Chittoor, North Arcot, Ramnad, and Malabar districts and the non-statutorily rationed areas of Coimbatore, Salem, Nilgiris and Tinnevelly. The fundamental reason necessitating postponement of the introduction of increased ration in these areas has been the low stocks of rice there and the difficulties, in view of the recent heavy rains and floods, involved in moving fresh stocks into them with the speed necessary for the purpose. It is unfortunate that nature should have thus interfered with the Government's intentions, and where nature takes a hand in disposing off things man sometimes feels helpless. The Government in a press note have appealed to the people of these unlucky districts "to put up with this temporary inconvenience which is solely due to causes beyond the control of this Government".

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Producers-cum-Consumers Societies

Among the criticisms, sound and unsound, interested and helpful, directed against the scheme of Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies sponsored by the Government, the one that is least convincing even as it is the least intelligible is that their constitution would lead to the imposition of a "tyranny" on the villagers worse than any that they have known. The new societies are being organised for specific purposes, to subserve some important and specific objectives and they would be helpful to the villagers in the procurement of food and other essential commodities and requirements without their having to resort to unauthorised agents or middlemen, more intent on profiteering at the expense of the villager than in assisting him. Share capital of these societies will be subscribed for by everyone and every section of the village population and thus the management will automatically vest in the shareholders themselves. How in the face of all these safeguards there can be tyranny over any section of the public is impossible to see, particularly when the very essence of a cooperative organisation is to eliminate all kinds of individual profits by vesting the management in all the shareholders. To condemn the scheme without according adequate credence to the basic co-operative principle on which the societies will be established is to condemn out of court the principle itself, whereas it has been the acknowledged merit of the cooperative system that it confers innumerable advantages on the villagers in promoting harmony of ideas and views. Two points may be emphasised in this connection to remove what appear to be honest misconceptions about the scheme. One is that the Consumers-cum-Producers Societies to be constituted are not intended to supplant the existing cooperative stores or societies wherever they have been found to be working efficiently and satisfactorily, but only to supplement them. Secondly, the societies' working will be supervised regularly by the Government agency and they will not be permitted to become at any time hotbeds of corruption or inefficiency. Under all these safeguards everyone can rest assured that they will prove themselves instruments for the promotion of public welfare.

* * * *

Temple Entry for Harijans

Criticisms are being made of the attitude of the Madras Ministry in regard to the throwing open of temples in the province to Harijans and the demand is made for legislation being passed in the Legislature for the

purpose. The critics do not, however, seem to have taken note of the fact that there is already a measure on the statute book known as the "Removal of Civil Disabilities Act" passed by the Legislature in 1938. The preamble to the Act says:—

> "Whereas it is increasingly felt by the Hindu community that the disabilities, which are imposed by social custom and usage on certain classes of Hindus commonly known as Harijans, Untouchables or Depressed Classes, and which have been in certain matters even legally recognised in the adjudication of rights and duties in civil and criminal proceedings, are repugnant to modern conditions and ideas of justice and social solidarity, and should no longer be recognised by law or otherwise enforced, it is hereby enacted as follows ...."

The ban on Harijans entering temples is a social disability which neither enlightened public opinion in this age is prepared to tolerate, nor can be justified on any rational grounds. There is a growing volume of support for the throwing open of temples to members of the Harijan community and a number of temples are in fact being thrown open to them day after day in different places in the presidency. Should this support be allowed to gain volume and intensity by its own inherent moral strength and on its own merits, or should external pressure be applied by means of legislation? Does not the existing law suffice to secure the result aimed at, or should it be supplemented by another law? These are questions which are seriously engaging the attention of Government and criticisms of their attitude which are generally varied, are, therefore, based on misunderstandings and misconceptions. The Hon'ble Sri K. Koti Reddi has assured everyone concerned that the Government are duly seized of the growing public demand. The Madras Government which hold the palm for measures intended for the uplift of Harijans by allotting a crore of rupees for that work, cannot conceivably be considered as being impervious to the need for ensuring that Harijans enjoy the right of entry into temples.

* * * * *

Hon. Home Member Criticises Communists

In the light of the experience we have of the communist methods in this Presidency, the warning uttered by the Hon'ble Sirdar Vallabhai Patel in Bombay to the workers against being misled by the Communists, who, he emphasised, are "advocating a path of violence and strikes and the disruption of industries" is particularly apposite. They have organised, and will not hesitate to organise hereafter, a number of strikes in the country with intent to disrupt the industries and dislocating certain essential services; but such methods can be advantageous neither to the workers nor to the general public. Mr. Patel's warning, uttered primarily to the workers in Bombay, may as well have been addressed to the workers elsewhere and particularly in the Madras presidency. Working their way into the workers' organisations in their insidious game of disrupting them from within, the Communists sedulously indoctrinate the unwary among the latter with their disruptionist slogans and indoctrinate them with dangerous ideas of class war. Organised trade unionism, which is a recognised avenue for joint action by the workers, is exploited by the Communists to subserve their own nefarious ends, and those who are left high and dry as a result thereof are none other than the workers themselves. A state of chaos cannot be beneficial to any one but those who want to utilise it for some ulterior ends of their own and the Communists by engendering such conditions condemn themselves as the promoters of chaos.

MILL CLOTH DISTRIBUTION SCHEME

Implications Explained

THE fundamental considerations inducing the Government to approve of the mill cloth distribution scheme which involves the allotment of 5 yards per adult and 2 yards per child of cloth at a flat rate have been set forth and the implications of the position explained in a statement issued by the Hon'ble the Prime Minister printed elsewhere. The scheme, it is emphasized, pertains only to mill cloth and does not include handloom cloth, which constitutes an essential part of the *per capita* allotment of 10.8 yards made to this province under the All-India Cloth Distribution scheme. The Premier desires the public to realise that it is absolutely misleading for anyone to assert that the allotment of 5 yards and 2 yards per adult and child respectively as mentioned above is all the cloth that one can have, because anyone is free to draw on the supplies of handloom cloth available in ample quantities to supplement the ration of mill cloth.

One vital characteristic of the latest scheme that has been particularly stressed in the statement is that it eliminates altogether the differential treatment in respect of cloth distribution under the previously existing scheme between Madras City and other urban areas on the one hand and the rural areas on the other and introduces the patently equitable principle of uniformity in the treatment accorded to the people of all parts of the province. The differential and higher allotment of mill cloth made to the towns and the correspondingly insignificant and limited ration allowed to the villagers under the previous scheme amounted in effect to subordinating the interests of 46 millions for the sake of satisfying 7 millions. As it is unjust, unfair and inequitable, its abolition is an act of bare justice towards a long suffering section of the people.

Control of Handloom Cloth Prices

It is in furtherance of the same principle of enabling the vast majority of poor people to secure handloom cloth at cheaper rates that the Government are also contemplating effective measures to bring down the prices of handloom cloth and to augment the totality of stocks of this cloth. When these measures are finalised the prices of handloom cloth should come down to reasonable levels.

The problem of course bristles with difficulties, one of them being that under the yarn distribution scheme, the province is constrained to export every month 13,000 bales out of the 40,000 bales produced in the local mills without any corresponding recompense. If this export can be stopped, it will automatically augment the supplies of yarn available for the handloom weavers and relieve under-employment among them. The effective organisation of the handloom weavers on a cooperative basis is another method not only of stabilising and strengthening the handloom weaving industry but of rooting out the prevailing evil of blackmarketing in yarn and cloth and the Premier's statement promises immediate action to implement this reform. Control must be exercised right from the initial production stage, so that when the finished product reaches the consumer he will not have to bear the accumulated burden of profits calculated at different percentages at the various stages.

The only other method of augmenting cloth supplies in the province, as throughout the country, is the encouragement of hand-spinning and hand-weaving, which is an essential part of the Madras Government's own scheme of rural reconstruction and development. It is imperative that those who regard the Khaddar expansion programme as an apology for primitivism should ponder the words of Mr. Dharma Vira, Textile Commissioner to the Government of India and Chairman of the All-India Handloom Board, in the course of his address to the Board held in Bombay on December 16. Mr. Dharma Vira, according to report, commended to the serious consideration of the provincial and state Governments the desirability of encouraging hand-spinning on a wide and organised basis. "The Indian handloom industry" he points out "in the pre-machine age owed its world renown as much to the skill of the hand-spinners as to the ingenuity of the weavers. It may not be possible to attain perfection in the spinning of even coarse to medium counts in the initial stage, but if properly fostered hand-spinning has not an unimportant role in providing a part-time vocation for the agriculturists, relieving the present unsatisfactory yarn position and in providing cloth for those whose needs are genuine and not confined to fine or superfine varieties."

View in Proper Perspective

The mill cloth distribution scheme must, therefore, be viewed in its proper and correct perspective if its implications are to be understood and one of the most important of these implications is that, in the existing circumstances, over which the Government of Madras have no control, it is impracticable to expect a higher allotment per head, granting of course that justice and equity demand that no differentiation be made between the city dweller and the villager.

Those who have been making consistently a great point of the inadequate cloth ration to the public cannot justifiably turn round now and argue that the Government are being inconsistent because they have removed the discrimination. Such an argument involving a twist of logic indicates only the extent of the disappointment felt by them at being deprived of special treatment, and not a flaw in the Government's scheme.

Some Press Notes of Madras Govt.

A Mischievous Propaganda

THE attention of the Government has been drawn to the "Mail's" attack, in its issue dated 9th December, on the Co-operative Producers-cum-Consumers' Societies scheme sponsored by the Government for the procurement and distribution of foodgrains and other essential commodities in the villages. Under the caption "Menace to Freedom" it indulges in a series of comments which are clearly calculated to prejudice the public mind against the scheme. It says, for instance, that the new societies threaten to cause a grave set-back to the co-operative movement in the villages and ultimately to paralyse the village administration. "In actual working," says the "Mail", "the societies are more likely to impose on the villages a tyranny worse than any they have known". It goes on to assert that because these new societies will be functioning under the village committees, as mentioned by the Additional Minister for Food, in a speech at Ellore, they will work with a political motive. "Being the only suppliers of food, the Producers-cum-Consumers' Societies can easily force villagers to abide by the dictates of any party bosses who happen to control the societies".

The Government desire to point out that all these criticisms of the "Mail" are entirely without foundation. The attention of the "Mail" and of the public may be drawn to the rules governing the constitution of the village committees, which will show that these committees are not intended to be—and in actual fact, are not—dominated by any political party or section of opinion. They have been constituted on the principle of giving the widest and fairest representation to all sections of local opinion and ample checks and safeguards are provided to protect them against becoming the handmaids of one particular class of people or section of opinion in the villages. If these committees develop and function on the lines that Government intend them to develop and function and hope they will, they can certainly become the cornerstones in the structure of village administration in the province.

As regards the multi-purpose co-operative societies proposed to be constituted, the working of these societies in Malabar has not revealed that they have imposed any kind of "tyranny" as that alleged in the "Mail" article on any section of the people. In certain cases where complaints were received by the Government that a particular community did not secure adequate representation or otherwise in the management of the societies, the complaints were looked into immediately by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and remedied forthwith. There is therefore no reason to presume that, if and when any defects will be noticed or complaints will be received about the societies to be formed in the East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur Districts, they will not be similarly removed. It may also be pointed out that in course of time the societies will deal with other commodities which are essential for the people and to function on regular commercial lines and for the sole good of the community.

The new societies are designed to be financed and managed by the people who are to be directly concerned in their working and the Government official machinery will always be ready at hand to check and control, to advise and warn whenever it is found that things are likely to go wrong. In the face of all this, there is no justification at all for all the misapprehensions that are sought to be created in the public mind about them by the "Mail." In any case the "Mail" is not being fair either to itself or to the Government or to the public, for whose interests it exhibits such exaggerated solicitude, by its preliminary scaremongering propaganda against the societies, which amounts to nothing short of prejudging the issue.

Assignment of Colours for Elections

Issued on December 13

In a Press Communique dated 21-10-46, the Government have specified the colours which should be assigned to the official candidates of the various councils. No colour has been assigned to candidates standing on behalf of the Hindu Mahasabha. The Provincial Secretary of the Hindu Mahasabha has requested Government that orange colour may be allotted to candidates put up by the Sabha at the ensuing elections to district boards and municipal councils. The Government have decided to direct the election officers appointed for the conduct of the elections, to allot orange colour to the candidates set up by the Hindu Mahasabha in connection with the elections.

In partial modification of the directions in the Press Communique dated 21-10-46, the Government have decided that candidates standing on behalf of the Congress should produce as their credentials individual certificates from the authorities specified below in respect of all the elections held in the districts noted against them.

President, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee—Districts of Chingleput, South Arcot, North Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevelly, Salem, Coimbatore and Nilgiris.

President, Andhra Provincial Congress Committee—Vizagapatam, East Godaveri, West Godaveri, Kistna, Guntur, Nellore, Chittor, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Bellary and Anantapur districts.

President, South Kanara District Congress Committee—South Kanara District.

President, Kerala Provincial Congress Committee—Malabar District.

Return of Car Permits

Issued on December 12.

Out of a total of 559 new cars received till 1-11-46 in this province, 85 had to be sold as "unfrozen", as permit-holders were not willing to cash their permits against them. During control, cars are allotted to essential users because of urgency and, though there is every desire to help essential users to secure cars of the type and make mentioned in their applications, it does not appear right that they should be allowed to retain their permits for the full period of validity and to return them to the P.M.T.C. with a request for re-issue subsequently. The Government desire that all essential users to whom permits are allotted should make use of their permits within the validity period by purchasing any car that will be available for purchase in the show-room. If they are not prepared to follow this course and if they are anxious to get permits again, they should, within 24 hours of the receipt of their permits, return them to the P.M.T.C. so that he may re-issue them. It is only when the P.M.T.C. can utilise the returned permits that the original allottees will be getting fresh permits. The practice of returning permits to the P.M.T.C. on the last date of their validity interferes seriously with the proper administration of the control order. There can naturally be little room for a free choice of cars so long as control is continuing.

Advisory Board of Education

Issued on December 10.

The Government of Madras have constituted a Provincial Advisory Board of Education. The Hon'ble Minister for Education will be the Chairman, and Mr. D. S. Reddi, the Deputy Director of Public Instruction, will be the Secretary. The following will be the members:—

The Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras.

" Andhra University.

" Annamalai University.

Rao Bahadur V. R. Ranganatha Mudaliar, Divisional Inspector of Schools.

Rev. A. J. Boyd, Principal, Madras Christian College, Tambaram.

Rev. Fr. De Souza, Principal, Loyola College, Madras.

Dr. B. V. Narayanaswami Naidu, Principal, Pachaiyappa's College, Madras.

Dr. J. J. Rudra, Principal, Arthur Hope College of Technology, Coimbatore.

Miss Mathew, Principal, St. Christopher's Women's Training College, Madras.

Dr. Kutumbiah, Principal, Stanley Medical College, Madras.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed, Secretary, Muslim Education Board.

Justice Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur.

Sir C. V. Raman.

Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao, M.L.C.

Sri B. Gopala Reddi, M.L.A.

Mrs. Bharathi Ranga, C/o. Prof. Ranga, M.L.A. (Central).

Prof. Yegnanarayana Iyer.

Sri M. Satyanarayana, Secretary, Hindi Prachar Sabha, Madras.

Sri Varadarajan, B.A., B.L., Madras.

Mr. Sargunam, Headmaster, Union High School, Coimbatore.

Prof. Sanjiva Rao, Madras.

Sri C. Subramaniam, B.A., B.L., Advocate, Coimbatore.

Mrs. Kuttimalu Amma, M.L.A., Calicut.

Mrs. Amritha Ramasubramaniam, B.A., LL.B., C/o Dr. P. N. Ramasubramaniam, Madura.

Sri T. P. Meenakshisundaram Pillai, M.A., B.L., Chintadripet, Madras.

Sri A. Rama Iyer, Principal, National College, Trichinopoly.

Pumps for Agriculturists

Issued on December 11.

Hitherto agriculturists who wanted to instal pumps etc. for irrigation purposes had to apply to several authorities for the supply of materials such as engines, pipes, power, etc. With a view to enable agriculturists to obtain assistance for their requirements expeditiously the procedure has now been simplified. They have now to address practically only one department, *viz.* the Agricultural Department:—

(1) Persons requiring engines or pumps may apply to the Director of Agriculture, Madras, who will supply these either from the stocks available with the Agricultural Department or render assistance or advice for the purchase of these from stockists.

(2) The Deputy Director of Agriculture (Engineering) working under the Director of Agriculture has been authorised to sign with effect from 1-12-46 essentiality certificates for the supply of pipes required for all agricultural purposes from the Iron and Steel Controller's stock. Applications for the supply of pipes should be sent to him in the prescribed form which can be had from the Regional Deputy Iron and Steel Controller, Madras.

(3) The Deputy Director of Agriculture (Engineering) will also make recommendations for the supply of electricity for agricultural purposes.

(4) In cases of difficulties in getting iron and steel for agricultural purposes the Director of Agriculture may be approached for assistance.

Surplus Army Vehicles

Issued on December 9.

Many surplus army motor vehicles are now being offered for sale by auction to the public, and it is understood that many of these vehicles are being bought with the intention of placing them on the road as buses or lorries after reconditioning them. The Government desire to bring to the notice of the public that as the provincial quota of motor spirit is extremely limited, it is not possible to guarantee the issue of petrol coupons for daily operation to any vehicle which may be bought in this way. So long as the existing petrol supply position continues, petrol will not be issued to such vehicles. Such vehicles may, however, be fitted with gas plants.

Prices for Foodgrains

Issued on December 3.

Since 1943, the Government have been fixing the prices for paddy, rice and millets for the ensuing season beginning from the 1st of November with reference to the cost of production and the price levels of essential commodities other than rice. And the price once fixed remain unchanged for one year till the next season. Revision of prices for 1946-47 was similarly considered by the Government. They also set up a non-official committee to advise them on the subject. The recommendations of the Committee were reported to the Government of India.

Madras is a deficit province and does not grow enough foodgrains for its own requirements. The Government of India have to arrange for supplies by allocating the surpluses from surplus provinces and States and by arranging for imports from overseas. They have, therefore, to follow an integrated price policy for the whole of India and no province can pursue an independent policy of its own in the matter of prices. In the course of the food debate in the Central Assembly, the Hon'ble Minister for Food, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, stated that, speaking generally, the index of the cost of essential commodities other than foodgrains had not risen higher than the index for the foodgrains and there was no sign to indicate that the production of foodgrains had become unremunerative. There was, therefore, no case for increasing the present prices of foodgrains. Further, an increase in the price paid to the producers for foodgrains must inevitably result in an increase of prices to consumers which will set up an increase in the cost of labour and cost of other essential commodities thus creating a vicious spiral of increase all round. The Government of India have therefore directed that there should be no increase in the prices for paddy and rice during the current kharif year.

Conditions in Burma are returning to normal and a large surplus for export is expected to be available next year. The season in Madras is so far normal and a normal long-term crop is expected from January onwards.

There should therefore be a tendency for prices to come down if natural economic laws were allowed to operate. But the Government of Madras have decided to continue the existing prices during the ensuing year except for slight adjustments necessitated by the order to confine the milling of rice only to de-husking. These adjustments will be made to prevent prices of foodgrains from dropping too rapidly; but they would, however, assure the producers that during the ensuing year they will try to maintain the existing price levels.

Control Over Oil Distribution

Issued on December 12.

The question of taking steps to secure more effective control over the price and distribution of oils, oilseeds and oilcake has been under the consideration of the Government of India for some considerable time. The Oilseeds Conference convened by the Government of India in September 1946 adopted a resolution stating that control over oilseeds, oils and oilcake was necessary and that regulation of inter-provincial movement and allocation of quotas by the Centre and regulation of prices in exporting as well as importing areas at co-ordinated price levels were essential features of such control. The Conference recommended that in respect of movement within the country Governments of the exporting provinces and States should do everything possible to see that accepted quotas are moved at controlled rates and that the Governments of the importing provinces and States should receive the quotas and distribute them at parity prices. The Government of India accepted this recommendation and have accordingly allotted quotas for the current year—November 1946 to October 1947. They have also stated that they consider that movement of oils and oilseeds on a Government to Government basis is the ideal method and they have requested this Government to take steps to that end. They have also recommended that in the main surplus areas ceiling prices should be stabilised at about Rs. 12 per imperial maund, ex-seller's, godown loose, for groundnut kernel (our main oilseed crop) and oil prices should not be more than 2½ times the kernel prices.

The Hon'ble Minister for Food held conferences with the millers and dealers regarding the best method of procurement and movement of quotas on Government account. At that conference he also stated that the price ex-wholesaler's godown in respect of groundnut kernel (shelled) will have to be brought down to Rs. 12 per imperial maund and a corresponding reduction will have to be made in the price of oil. The representatives of the trade there assembled recommended that there need be no intermediate stepping down of prices and the new price may come into effect on 1-1-47 and due notice of their decision may be given by the Government. If this was done, they said, no time need also be given for clearing subsisting contracts at higher prices. They urged however that the Government of Madras should not put their scheme into force unless they were satisfied that other Governments would follow suit and that importing administrations would not allow their merchants to profiteer on kernel and oil imported from Madras at controlled prices.

The Government of Madras have now ascertained that all the main exporting and importing areas are willing to introduce price control and enforce parity prices. On this understanding the Madras Government have decided to proceed with their plan for fixation of prices and Government-to-Government procurement and movement of groundnut kernel and oil.

The Government have accordingly created a post of Deputy Commissioner of Civil Supplies to be in charge of this work. The Deputy Commissioner will arrange for the procurement of the *quotas* allotted for export from Madras by the Government of India under the procedure which will be explained later.

Regarding prices, the Government of Madras have decided that the ceiling price for dry decorticated groundnut kernel ex-seller's godown should be fixed at Rs. 12 per imperial maund for 4 per cent refraction, with mutual allowances as laid down in the all-India standard contract form recommended by the Agricultural Marketing Department of the Government of India. They have also decided that there should not be differential prices for kernel as between the northern and southern parts of the presidency. The

price announced above will therefore apply to all parts of the presidency. This price will come into effect on 1-1-47.

Millers have represented that the price of unshelled groundnut should also be fixed. The Government consider this request reasonable and have fixed a ceiling price of Rs. 8-8-0 per imperial maund for shelled groundnut of fair average quality, free from moisture.

With regard to oil the Government have decided that the basic ex-mill price should be Rs. 30 per imperial maund. As millers generally carry large stocks of kernel the Government have decided to allow a time-lag of three weeks to enable millers to dispose of oil produced from kernel obtained at higher prices prior to 1-1-47. The price fixed for oil will therefore come into effect only on 22-1-47 and not on 1-1-47.

Recently the Government reduced the margin of profit for the wholesaler from Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 1-8-0 per imperial maund. On further representations the Government have decided to allow a margin of Rs. 2 per imperial maund for the wholesaler to cover sales tax, incidental charges, leakage and profit and the wear and tear of drums.

So far the Government have been allowing a premium of Rs. 1-8-0 per imperial maund for oil containing 4 per cent free fatty acid or less. This does not correspond with the usual trade practice where a high contract rate is agreed upon for oil of very good quality and deductions are made for quality which falls below that standard. The Government have therefore decided to make the price mentioned above applicable in respect of oil of fair average quality. The Government will notify from time to time the percentage of f.f.a that will be allowed for f. a. q. oil. Their intention is that, as the season advances, a more liberal allowance should be made. Since this is the beginning of the new season, they have fixed 4 per cent f.f.a. as the percentage to be allowed in respect of f.a.q. oil. A premium will be allowed in respect of oil containing less than 4 per cent f.f.a. and deductions will be ordered where the f.f.a. content of accepted oil is higher than 4 per cent.

The Government have decided to fix the retail price of groundnut oil over the entire province from 22-1-47 at Rs. 1-4-9 per viss plus sales tax.

The Deputy Commissioner of Civil Supplies will call for tenders month by month for moving the quotas of kernel and oil. Tenders will normally be accepted on a competitive basis. Tenders will be f.o.r. despatching stations for quotas moving by rail and f.o.r. ports for quotas moving by sea or rail-cum-sea, packed in gunnies in the case of kernel and in drums in the case of oil. Tenderers will be asked to say separately how the prices apportioned among the following (1) price of the kernel or oil; (2) cost of containers; and (3) the other incidental charges which may be incurred up to the point of delivery as mentioned in the tender. Tenderers may be called upon to deposit some security amount before their tenders can be considered. Successful tenderers will be asked to deposit one-half per cent of the value of the oil or kernel as the surcharge due to this Government before the quota is allowed to move. The present system of registered millers and dealers will not apply in respect of tenderers. There will be no restriction as to who can tender and who cannot, but the Deputy Commissioner will have to be satisfied that the tenderer has the capacity to fulfil the terms of the tender. In regard to mills, no mill will be allowed to tender for a quantity exceeding 60 per cent of its own production.

Each quota-holding importer will have his own inspecting agents who should be acceptable to the Madras Government. The work of the inspecting agents will also be watched on behalf of the Government of Madras by their own officials. The acceptance of tenders will be intimated to the inspecting agents. Each importing administration will nominate a Bank in Madras which will receive the railway receipts from the despatcher and pay out the amounts due according to the advice of the inspecting agent. The inspecting agent will be responsible for quality and weight. On his endorsement the Bank will receive the railway receipt and pay 90% of the value of the consignment. The balance will be paid after the final acceptance by the inspecting agent of the particular consignment which will be signified after the analysis has been completed. In any case the time taken for analysis and intimation of final

acceptance will not be allowed to exceed 10 days.

The Government have considered the question what is the fair proportion to be reserved for tendering by millers and dealers. At present the rule is that millers can get 20 tons per expeller and dealers can get 50 tons at a time. As the average oil mill consists of 3 expellers, this gives a fair proportion of 60 to 150. The Government have accordingly decided that 55% of the total exportable surplus should be reserved for millers and 45% for dealers. Competition will be allowed with regard to tenders from the millers only for the millers' quota and amongst dealers only for the dealers' quota. If sufficient tenders are not forthcoming from the millers, a larger proportion will be allowed to the dealers.

The Deputy Commissioner will shortly be calling for tenders for the quotas to be exported in the course of December-January.

Export of Groundnut Oil

Issued on December 13

The Government have received several representations, especially from the millers and dealers in groundnut oil in the districts of West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur, that they were not able to avail themselves of the recent concession given by the Government allowing free export of groundnut oil up to 30 tons per expeller and 60 tons per dealer owing to the difficulty in getting wagons for Calcutta and in moving goods by sea to Calcutta. In some cases the oil is said to have reached the rail head but could not move because the extended period of validity of the permit had expired. In order to remove any hardship resulting from the wagon shortage etc. Government have decided that some further concession should be shown especially to millers and dealers who have not been able to export any quantity and those who have been able to export only limited quantities against the permit already issued to them.

As Madras merchants had opportunity to move oil by sea as well as by rail, the Government have decided that no concession need be shown in respect of Madras permits. The Government have also received complaints about the serious shortage of cooking oil in the city. They fear that if movement via Madras port is allowed this shortage would be aggravated, especially as the dislocation of railway transport consequent on the recent rains will prevent the free flow of oil into Madras city for some more time. They have therefore decided that movement by sea via Madras port should also not be allowed.

Similarly, in regard to Vizagapatam permits, the Government understand that a larger number of wagons were made available on the B.N. Railway than on the M.S.M. Railway and further they had the opportunity to export oil by sea via Vizagapatam port. The Government have, therefore, decided that permits from Vizagapatam district should also not be extended.

The Government have therefore decided that the present concession should be confined to permits for export of groundnut oil from the four districts of East and West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur. Even in these districts the Government consider that preference should be shown to people who have been able to export little or no quantity. They have accordingly decided that no consideration should be shown to permit holders who have already exported 50 per cent or more of the quantity covered by the previous permits. In regard to permit holders who have exported less than half the quantity, the permit should be only for a quantity which is sufficient to bring up the aggregate to half the quantity covered by the original permit. Permit holders who have not been able to export any quantity against their old permits will get permits for half that quantity.

The Government intend to issue these as fresh permits instead of revalidating the old permits themselves, as the old permits would have already been overwritten and corrected more than once. The concession is applicable only in respect of permits where the destination has been shown as Calcutta, (e.g., Shalimar, Ramakrishnapur etc.). The new permits will be issued only on application made in writing stating the quantity for which the applicant is entitled to a fresh permit on the basis outlined above. The application should be accompanied by the expired permit.

These permits will be valid only up to 31-12-1946. The Government wish to emphasise once again that further extension of permits will not be given under any circumstances, even though movement may be slow owing to rain or any other cause. Permit holders will be allowed at their discretion to move goods by rail or sea or rail and sea. But they will not be allowed to export oil by sea via Madras port or any port south of Madras.

The Government also understand that the Government of India have issued orders that all oil intended for Bengal should be moved only to Howrah. The object of this order is understood to be to enable the Bengal Government to lay their hands on all stocks coming into the city, so that they may be commandeered and sold at fair prices. The Government wish to inform permit holders even now that the stocks are liable to be commandeered by the Bengal Government at the other end, especially as this movement will count against the Bengal quota for 1946-47.

Increased Rice Ration

Issued on December 13

On 4-12-46 the Hon'ble Prime Minister announced that the scale of rice ration will be raised from 8 to 10 ozs. in the case of rice eaters with effect from the 15th of December 1946. Since then, however, there have been continuous heavy rains in many parts of the province, disrupting communications and preventing the building up of sufficient supplies to give effect to the increased ration with effect from that date. The Government have very carefully considered the situation in each district with reference to the present available stocks and the prospects of moving more stocks into them in order to enable the increase of the ration from 15-12-46, and have decided that the increased scale of rice ration should be given effect to on the date already announced viz., 15-12-46 in all districts except in the following:—

Vizagapatam Bellary Cuddapah Chittoor North Arcot Ramnad and Malabar	entire district
Coimbatore Salem Nilgiris and Tinnevelly	in non-statutorily rationed areas only

In the excluded areas, the present stocks are low and it is not possible to move more in time to give effect to the increased ration with effect from 15-12-46. The Government will endeavour to increase the stocks in these areas also before the 1st of January, 1947, and give effect to the increased ration from that date, if not earlier. The people of these areas are requested to put up with this temporary inconvenience which is solely due to causes beyond the control of this Government.

Flood Relief Work

The taluks of Vridhachalam, Chidambaram and Kallakurichi and some portions of Cuddalore in South Arcot District were affected by floods in the Manimuktha and Vellar rivers following heavy and widespread rains on November 15 and 16.

In the low-lying areas of Vridhachalam town and in Manalur village the mud walls of a number of houses collapsed on the 16th morning. Similar damage was also reported from Malayaperumal Agaram village in Cuddalore and Panjaimahathuvalkai village in Chidambaram. The Government have granted the affected families substantial cash allowances to help reconstruction.

There has been no damage to standing crops except that certain lands in Vridhachalam taluk have been silted up.

Irrigation channels, tanks and anicut systems have incurred extensive damage, estimated at about Rs. 1,50,000. Ring bunds have been put up where breaches in minor irrigation tanks have occurred. The P.W.D. is attending to the necessary repairs.

Considerable disruption of road traffic was caused by the rains. The breaches on the Grand Southern Trunk Road, once repaired, again gave way on November 25. The Cuddalore—Porto Novo Road has yet to be restored. The other roads are passable.

The Collector of South Arcot has submitted tentative suggestions for combating the flood menace. Among the long-term remedies are mentioned the appointment of a permanent Commission, or else a Flood and Irrigation Research Station, to study the behaviour of rivers, streams and floods, afforestation in the catchment area, and construction of flood regulator dams along the streams. Suggestions for short-term relief in Vridhachalam town include assisted migration towards the high-level areas and flood banks part of whose cost should be contributed by the residents of the town.

MADRAS

ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

by K. Bashyam, Law Minister

A Historical Survey

CAPITAL punishment has been the subject of discussion by Governments and the public for sometime past. In this Province it has received the attention of the present Ministry ever since it assumed office and the question is being examined. In this matter credit cannot go entirely to this Government, for the matter was being investigated into even earlier. The question of abolishing capital punishment was raised in 1922 by the late Mr. J. C. Adam, then Public Prosecutor, Madras, who submitted a memorandum to the Government. He traced the history of capital punishment from psychological points of view. He argued that while a legal menace is generaly efficacious in all matters of delinquencies and misdemeanours, from an ethical point of view the argument when applied to capital punishment not only becomes revolting but involves a helplessness on the part of the State, which is forced to confess that it is so fearful of a particular criminal that he does not deserve any lesser punishment. He finally came to the conclusion that generally a person who commits murder has chances of escaping through seven stages: (1) detection, (2) committal, (3) conviction, (4) condemnation, (5) acquittal on appeal, (6) reduction of sentence on appeal and (7) reprieve by the Crown. Death as such is not a deterrent as it is said to be. If death penalty is to be retained it must be made more certain of infliction. Therefore he would withdraw the power from the Sessions Judges and keep it only in the High Court. The matter did not proceed further and was shelved.

The question was again raised at a conference of Inspectors-General of Prisons in 1929. The majority of the members thereof was for restricting the punishment to cases of deliberate and premeditated murder. No action was taken by Governments in the matter.

In The Thirties

Again in January, 1931, a Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, who pleaded strongly for the removal of this punishment which he called a barbarous and antiquated method of social revenge demoralising in effect on human mind and coarsening public sentiment and also involving an interference with the sense of sacredness of human life. It was strongly opposed by Sir James Crerar and the motion was negatived. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh again introduced a Bill in 1933, but no progress seemed to have been made.

Even in England the question of abolishing capital punishment was engaging attention. A Select Committee of the House of Commons was appointed in 1930 for this question. The committee referred to India and said that India had not been without her experiments in abolition. During the seven years, 1804-1811, when Sir James Mackintosh presided as Judge of the Supreme Court of Bombay, he entirely suspended the death penalty, and at the end of that period, in his farewell address to the Crown Jury at Bombay, after comparing the statistics of his term with those of the preceding period, he said that this small experiment has been made without any diminution of the security of the lives and properties of men. Two lakhs of men have been governed for seven years without capital punishment, and without any increase of crime.

The question was again considered in England by a Select Committee in 1931. The Select Committee suggested that a Bill should be introduced and passed into law providing for the abolition of Death penalty for an experimental period of 5 years in cases tried by Civil Courts in times of peace, and that in the meanwhile, a resolution should be passed by the House of Commons declaring that the Secretary of State for Home Affairs, should recommend in each case that the death sentence should be commuted. Though this was done in 1931 no action was taken by the Government of that day.

Recent Developments

Recently, when the Labour Government came into power in England with an overwhelming majority, Mr. Chuter Ede, the Home Secretary, proposed that the penalty should be abolished for a period of 5 years at the first instance and that if, as anticipated, no adverse consequences followed, the penalty may be finally abolished. The question has not yet been settled and probably it was thought that the time was not ripe or proper for introducing such a measure in England where persons returned from War

are fresh from slaughter on a large scale, and therefore cannot be expected to take a humane and sympathetic view of the sacredness of human life at home.

Pros and Cons

Having traced its history so far I shall try to give some arguments for and against the death penalty.

Methods of inflicting death penalty have in course of time assumed a more and more humane form. Hanging was orginally a public spectacle, but now it has become more secretive and except for some newspaper notes no notice is taken of any execution now-a-days. In many places public executions have been abolished. This development took place evidently because it became apparant that public executions, instead of deterring people from crimes, brutalised them and incited them to crime. I do not know if I should describe the method of hanging.

The victim stands or sits upon a trap-door in a scaffold built up ten or twelve feet from the ground. A noose formed by the lower end of a rope attached to a cross-beam above his head is placed round his neck. A black cap is pulled down entirely over his face and fastened around the neck. At a given signal from the officer upon the platform, the executioner, usually sationed at some distance, pulls a rope which releases the trap and allows the victim to fall through the scaffold by several feet. The fall usually breaks the neck and causes instant death. Occasionally, however, the neck is not broken and then death occurs by strangulation.

This was later substituted by electrocution which is supposed to be less painful and also less distressing to those who witness the death. The culprit is fastened to a firmly built chair. Upon his head, which has been shaved, there is strapped one of the electrodes in a cap filled with a sponge soaked in salt water so as to make the contact close in order to prevent burning. The other electrode is fastened to the ankle. The current is turned on at the switch by the executioner, left on for a certain number of seconds, and turned off. After a short interval it is again turned on and then turned off, this process being repeated as long as is necessary to produce death.

In more recent years asphyxiation by gas was restored to and this is the most humane and least painful. This has been still improved upon by the use of liquid hydrocyanic gas which causes instant death.

The full description of these various punishments had to be given to show how the human mind recoils at such gruesome details.

Unproved Assumptions

The apologists in favour of death penalty argue that this is the only method of liquidating a hopeless enemy of society and that the criminal who commits the crime is incorrigible. But it must be noted that in cases where death penalty is inflicted nobody has cared to go into the criminal's previous history, his antecedents, his mental and physical conditions, and arrive at a conclusion as to the probability of his being redeemed. It is again said that it is a powerful deterrent; but experience has shown, as stated already, that because of the existence of capital punishment murders are not any the less. In many States in America and in Continental countries, capital punishment has been abolished. In some of the Northern Indian States also the extreme penalty is not enforced. Coming nearer home, in the State of Pudukottah, capital punishment has been abolished decades ago, apparently without any evil results. The number of cases of murder in the Pudukottah State do not seem to be higher in proportion to its population than the number of murders committed in the adjoining districts of Madura and Ramnad. Therefore naturally the argument that it acts as a deterrent, cannot be said to rest on sure foundation. Its psychological effect on the executioner is certainly a consideration that cannot be overlooked. It deadens the regard and respect for the sacredness of human life and the frequent presence at the struggle of criminals dying of hanging will affect the subconscious mind of any human being.

The death penalty is also supported on the ground that a person who injures society by anti-social activities is not entitled to the protection of society nor is he entitled to remain in it. It will be better, therefore, to get rid of him once for all. This argument cannot be taken seriously because the number of such persons is so small that it will not certainly be a burden on society: besides it is also a confession of helplessness on the part of the State to reform such criminals. The argument assumes that any measures taken to improve them are bound to fail. Even these apologists would limit capital punishment to very few offences.

Judges not Infallible

On the other hand there is the fact that it is an irrevocable penalty and when once carried out it is beyond recall. There have been cases where innocent persons have been condemned and there have been many cases where, after a man has been hanged for murder, it is subsequently found that the crime was committed by another. History is full of tragic stories in which innocent people have been condemned. The trial of Adolf Beck will be remembered. Beck was sentenced in 1896 by overwhelming evidence, but after 9 years he was able to establish his innocence. Had he been convicted of a capital offence and executed in consequence, instead of being imprisoned, the error would probably never have come to light. Judges are not generally infallible and mistakes often occur. To inflict such an irrevocable sentence would be a gross piece of injustice.

Revenge or Reform?

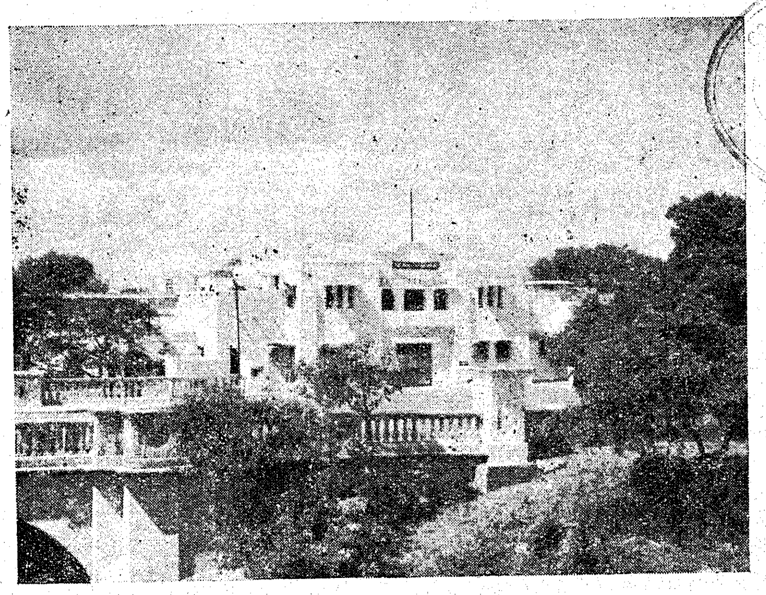
The motive behind the death penalty may be said to be retributive. It is more out of a motive of revenge that it is enforced, and that means it is a relic of ancient times when the Law was "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." In those primitive days it was considered a legitimate principle to apply. But it will now be considered barbarous to gouge out in cold blood the eye of a man who has deprived another of his sight; and modern law recognises that the offender should not be dealt with in any such barbarous manner.

Does not the same principle apply to capital punishment also? What is the proper theory, in such cases? If it is accepted that the object is to reform the offender and deter others from the path of crime, if that is the criterion, death penalty is not the solution for such purposes.

There is also the further fact that abolition of capital punishment diminishes the certainty of unjust punishment. Any ordinary man is loath to take life even though it may be for a life that has been done away with. After all, it cannot be denied that capital punishment is a most deliberate kind of murder. No man of culture or refinement feels but an instinct of abhorrence to inflict this punishment, if he is called upon to do so himself. Why then put it on a public executioner?

The question has now been put before the public from both sides, and it is for the public to tell the Government what is to be done in the circumstances. Would you believe in capital punishment and limit the cases to be applied, or would you take a more liberal and humanitarian view of it and abolish capital punishment altogether?

(By the kind curtsy of the A.I.R., Madras)



The Madras Penitentiary

CLOTH RATIONING SCHEME

PREMIER CLARIFIES POLICY

THE Premier Mr. T. Prakasam has issued the following statement:—

There has been of late some criticism in the Press and platform on the Mill Cloth Rationing Scheme announced by the Provincial Textile Commissioner on the 25th November, 1946. The Press Note issued by him related to one item only in the entire scheme that had been under the consideration of the Government. This probably led some critics to presume that the whole quantity of cloth available to the Government for distribution was that covered by the Press Note, namely, 5 yards per adult and 2 yards per child. But that is neither true nor correct. It is a well-known fact that the quota allowed to this Province by the Central Government under the All-India Cloth Distribution Scheme is 10.8 yards *per capita* consisting of 4.2 yards of mill cloth and 6.6 yards of handloom cloth. The Government have sufficient quantity of cloth for distribution on the above basis of 10.8 yards *per capita*; but the whole of it is not mill cloth.

So far as distribution of the mill portion of *per capita* ration of cloth in the Province is concerned, under the previous scheme in force from July a differential allotment of mill cloth between people living in the City of Madras and towns with over 10,000 population on the one hand and the rest of the population living in villages on the other, was being followed. Under it, in the city of Madras an adult was allotted 12 yards and a child 6 yards. In towns with over 50,000 population, an adult was allotted 9 yards and a child 4½ yards and in towns with a population of over 10,000 an allotment was made of 7 yards per adult and 3½ yards per child and for the rest of the province 4 yards per adult and 2 yards per child. The total population of the City and the towns referred to above is about 7 millions, whereas the total population in villages is 46 millions. Out of the 12,000 bales of mill cloth allotted to the province on the *per capita* basis, the 7 million population in the urban areas were getting 3,100 bales of mill cloth as against 8,666 bales of mill cloth available for the rest of the population numbering 46 millions living in the rural areas. Of the two varieties of cloth, the cheaper mill-made cloth was being allotted to the people in towns in greater quantity to the disadvantage of the rural population. This defect of differential rations of mill cloth was set right by the Government when the scheme came up for finalisation, by removing the discrimination and by introducing a flat, uniform rate of 5 yards per adult and 2 yards per child for every part of the Province so far as mill cloth is concerned. The *per capita* allotment of mill cloth to the province by the Central Government does not admit of a higher ration. It is but natural that the City and urban population who had been deprived of the preferential rate should get upset. Now that the whole position has been explained, I have every hope that the urban population will reconcile themselves to the situation in the interests of the larger section of the people. It is, however, wrong to suppose that this 5 yards of mill cloth allotted is all the cloth that a person will get. In addition to the ration of 5 yards of mill cloth for an adult and 2 yards for a child, the handloom cloth allotment of 6.6 yards *per capita* allows a ration of 7.6 yards per adult and 3.8 yards per child of handloom cloth.

In the scheme of rationing of mill cloth, the family is the unit for the purpose of purchase of cloth and it should be possible for each family to make necessary adjustments in the long lengths of mill-made cloth required by women within the total ration of the family, supplementing unsatisfied requirements by handloom cloth which is available in sufficient quantities to enable every family to clothe itself in varieties to which it is accustomed. Every family will be free to buy its annual ration at any time within the ration year and any quota remaining unused will lapse only at the end of that

year. At the same time every care will be taken to see that the villagers get only the type and varieties of mill cloth to which they are generally accustomed.

Handloom Cloth:

Next, with regard to the handloom cloth, the price of it is, at present, very high and is generally beyond the resources of many. The Government are taking and will continue to take all possible steps to bring down the prices of handloom cloth as well as to increase its production. Under the All-India Yarn Scheme, out of 40,000 bales of yarn produced in the Province, the Province is exporting 13,000 bales. A little over 6,000 bales of yarn is consumed by the mills themselves in the province. Thus about 20,000 bales only are available for distribution amongst the handloom weavers and they are just sufficient to keep a weaver employed for 10 days in a month.

While the position of mill yarn and cloth was such, the handloom cloth has been selling at 3½ times the mill cloth. The present high wage levels in handloom industry are due to the fact that the weaver has to earn enough during the 10 days he works, to enable him to maintain himself and his family for the whole month. If the 13,000 bales out of the 40,000 bales of yarn produced in the Province, which are being exported out of it, are retained in the Province itself and are made available for distribution amongst the weavers, the problem of under-employment amongst weavers can be solved and their wage levels, brought down considerably and the prices of handloom cloth reduced to a very great extent. The Government of Madras have taken up this question with the Central Government. If this quantity of 13,000 bales of yarn is available for the weavers of the Province, it will ease the cloth position to a considerable extent.

The Government have decided to set up a Provincial Handloom Wages Advisory Board in consultation with which the maximum wages in respect of each variety of handloom cloth will be fixed and notified. The Government have also decided to reduce the margin of profits allowed to the producers and dealers of handloom cloth so that price to the consumer will only be the cost of production plus 18¾%. The price of handloom cloth will thereby be brought down from its present high level of 3 to 3½ times the cost of corresponding variety of mill cloth to about 2 times the cost of mill cloth. The Government are organising vigorously Co-operative Societies with a view to bring down the price of handloom cloth. Stamping of prices of handloom cloth also will be strictly enforced. Arrangements will also be made to see that the weaver gets no further supply of yarn until he has satisfactorily accounted for the previous supply.

The Government, in the meanwhile, are doing everything possible to put down black-marketing in yarn and cloth. They appointed recently authorised controllers for four of the textile mills in the Province to prevent leakage of yarn and cloth from the mills. They have decided to extend similar control over all the other mills in the Province. The Government are also trying to step up production of yarn by arranging with the owners of spinning mills for 3-shift working of the mills as far as possible. To ensure efficient working of the new scheme of distribution of cloth and yarn and quicker disposal of local complaints, Collectors will be made fully responsible for all items of textile control work in the districts and they will be given the assistance of a Special Assistant for the control work to enable them to discharge their duties effectively.

Lastly I must repudiate the allegation that the rationing of mill cloth is a disguised attempt to encourage khadi, as being altogether unfounded.

ON THE INDIAN FOOD FRONT

Imports.—The following quantities of food-grains arrived in India from overseas during the week ended November 28:—

Wheat (including flour)	41,700 tons
Rice	18,500 „
Maize	2,100 „
Millets	1,000 „
Barley	19,700 „

Rationing.—The Madras Government have decided to restore the rice contents of the ration of rice-eaters to 10 ozs. from December 15.

The U.P. Government have reduced pure wheat ration in the regulated towns of the province by half a chatak from December 1.

FOOD SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE

FOR THE FORTNIGHT ENDING 30-11-1946

Seasonal Conditions

DURING the fortnight under review, the North-East Monsoon continued unabated and there was widespread and heavy rainfall particularly along the Coromandel Coast and in the Central and Southern Districts. In Guntur District 14,000 acres of wet land were submerged and the harvest of millets has been affected in some districts. Breaches of tanks were reported in several districts.

Prices

There was no perceptible change in the prices of foodgrains and pulses. There was, however, a slight fall in the price of chillies.

The position regarding the price of other commodities was as follows:

Groundnut oil cake	Stationary.
Copra, gingelly seed, cocoanut oil, groundnut oil, and cotton seed	Slight increase.
Machine-shelled groundnut and gingelly oil	Slight decrease.
Gingelly oil cake	An increase of 26.4%

PROCUREMENT

The quantities of foodgrains locally procured in the procuring districts and those obtained from sources outside the province are furnished below:—

(a) Local procurement

Paddy	45,592 tons	Equivalent to 93,910 tons in terms of rice.
Rice	59,716 „	
Millets	3597 „	

The quantity procured during the fortnight has fallen considerably when compared with the procurement during the previous fortnight.

(b) Receipts from other Provinces and States

Rice	11,942 tons
Millets	263 „
Wheat	Nil
Wheat products	Nil
Pulses. Blackgram	1890 „
Redgram	520 „
Greengram	198 „
Bengalgram	201 „
Total pulses	2809 „

(c) Imports from overseas

Rice	5500 tons
Millets	5000 „
Maize	Nil
Wheat	Nil
Wheat products	3000 „
Barley	..
Rye	540 „

Supply and stock position of foodgrains

Rice :

The closing stock of rice on 28-11-1946 was 2,27,932 tons as against 2,65,367 tons on 14-11-1946, which was mainly due to falling off in procurement. During the fortnight stocks of rice became very low in Coimbatore, Malabar, Ramnad, and Madras City, and steps were taken to replenish them. In Malabar, the supply position in the deficit taluks in the northern portion of the district became precarious, and supplies were made to those taluks by making internal adjustments and by imports from outside. Incessant rains continued to retard the preparation of rice and its movement. With rice stocks at this present low level, even a brief disruption of communications is apt to produce a crisis. The fortnight did however see an improvement in the stock position in Madras City.

Millets :

The stock of millets fell slightly to 22,986 tons on 28-11-46, which represents rather less than 1½ months' supplies. The receipt of 5,000 tons of millets at Tuticorin has replenished the low stocks in Madura and Coimbatore. The only other district, which is short of millets, is the Nilgiris, which requires more ragi.

Wheat :

The stock of wheat and wheat products were 40,101 tons and 8,098 tons respectively on the 28th November. No more wheat is expected in December or in January, although some maida is expected in exchange for wheat. The off-take of wheat and wheat products will decrease as a result of the increase in the rice ration to 10 oz. and accordingly, the present stocks should suffice at least until the end of January.

Maize:

The stocks of maize and barley on 28-11-46 were 39,103 tons and 3,843 tons respectively. 4,000 tons of maize is being exported to Travancore, but even after the export of this 4,000 tons, the maize available will last for several months.

Pulses :

The stocks of pulses are adequate in most districts. Appreciable imports of Bengalgram are expected from North India in December.

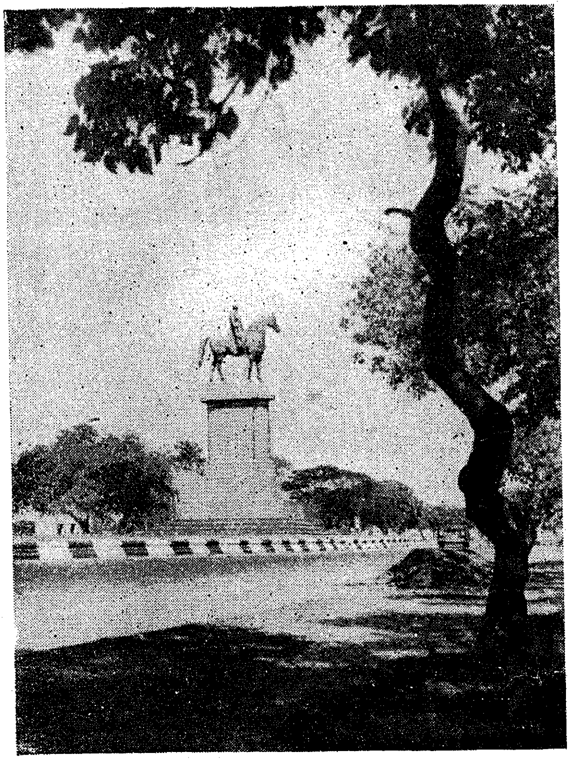
Sugar and Jaggery:

The Sugar Controller has allotted a quota of 70,000 tons of sugar to this province for 1946-47. The district sugar quotas are being revised to correspond more closely to the population of each district. The Gur Controller has allotted export quotas totalling 59,900 tons of jaggery from this province to other provinces, in 1946–47.

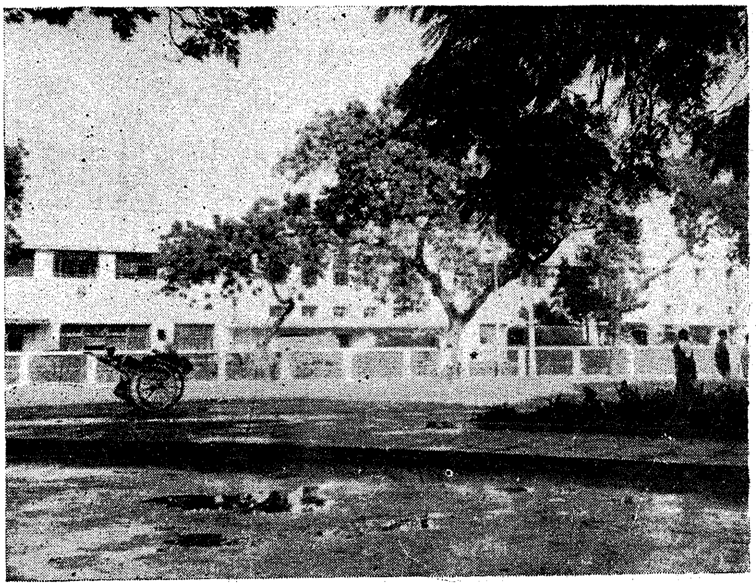
MADRAS IN PICTURES--III

(Mount Road upto Wellington Talkies)

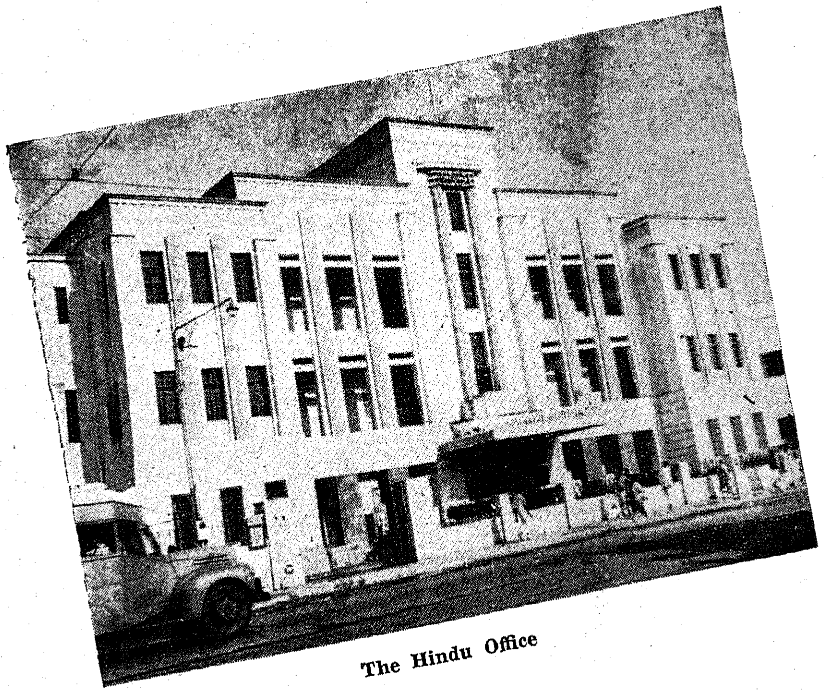
7 JAN
MADRAS



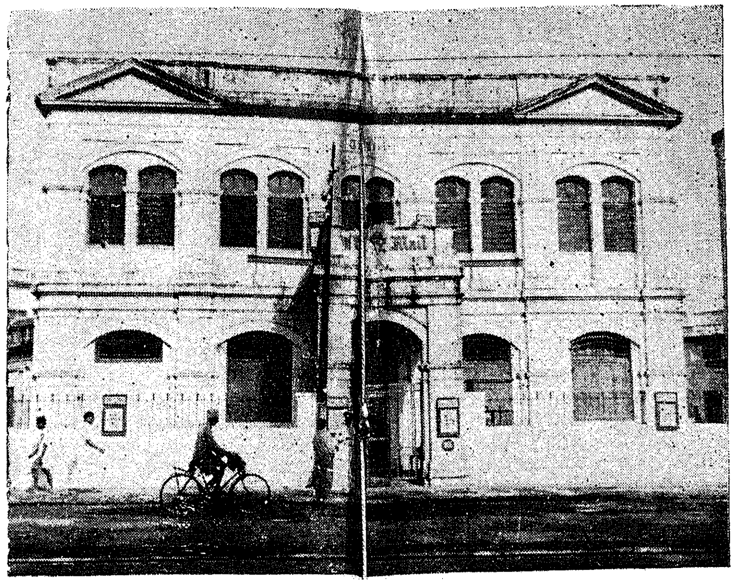
The Munro Statue



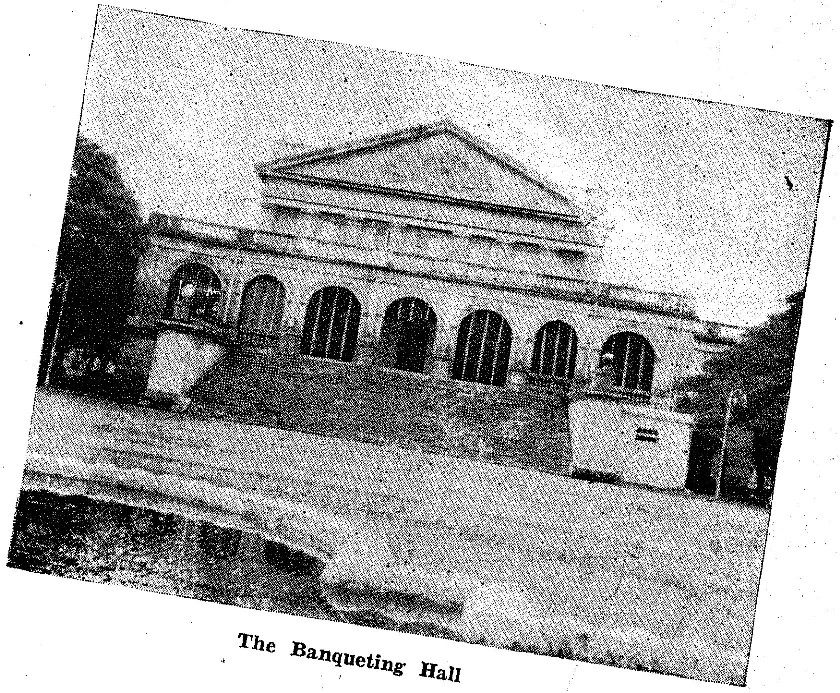
The Simpsons' Buildings



The Hindu Office



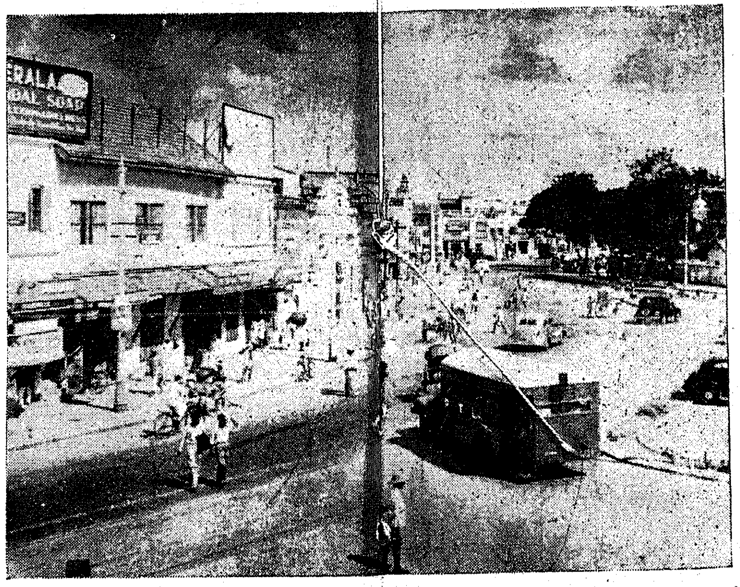
The Mail



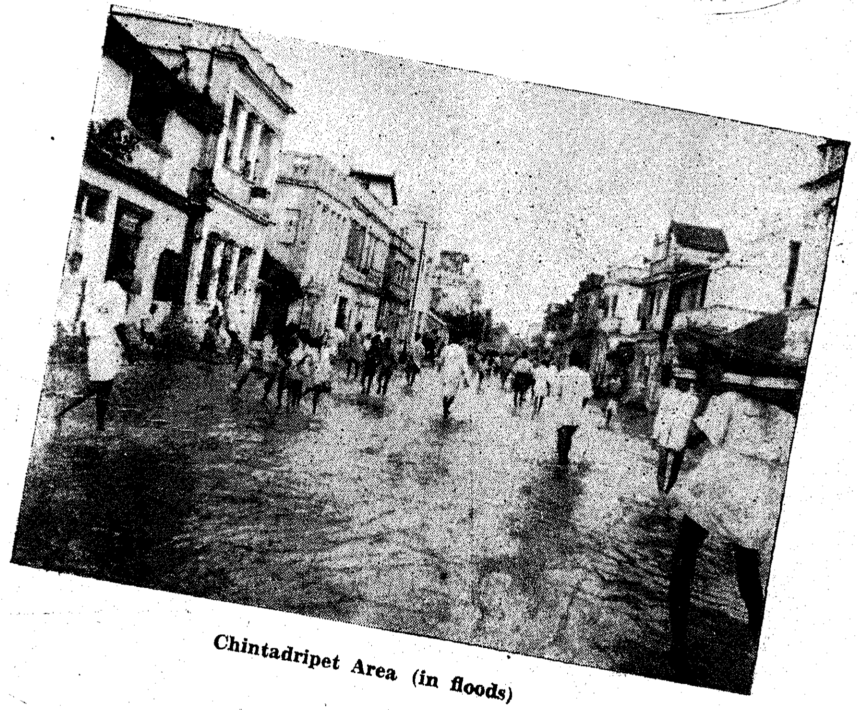
The Banqueting Hall

MADRAS

The Wellington Talkies (in floods)



Round Tana—Mount Road Junction



Chintadripet Area (in floods)

Hundreds of huts were washed away during the recent floods.

A flooded area

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AT WORK

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I. EDUCATION

Secondary Education

THERE was a large expansion in the facilities for secondary education in the Presidency during the current year. The Director of Public Instruction sanctioned this year the opening of 114 secondary schools, most of which were in the interior of the districts and the opening of higher forms in as many as 127 existing secondary schools. Besides, the Government have permitted as a strictly temporary measure the admission of a relatively large number of students in the existing schools by relaxing rules governing the minimum class-room area required per pupil.

Important developments have taken place in this field of education during the last few months.

First, a new body has been constituted, known as the "Board of Secondary Education" with both advisory and executive functions replacing the old S.S.L.C. Board. The strength of the Board is 25, with the Director of Public Instruction as the Chairman and the members represent besides the teaching profession, all other interests concerned with secondary education. The essential difference between the old and the new Board is that while the old was directly participating in the conduct of the S.S.L.C. Examination the new one cannot, as all examiners should be persons not on the Board.

Secondly, the secondary schools have, as a rule, adopted the regional languages as the media of instruction. In a few cases, English has been permitted to be used as the medium, as a temporary measure.

Thirdly, the Government have sanctioned a scheme under which, at least, half the number of existing high schools will be teaching Hindustani as a part of the school programme before the end of this year. It is hoped that the rest of the schools will be able to provide courses in Hindustani from the beginning of the next year.

Fourthly, with a view to increasing the supply of well-equipped women-teachers in the various regional languages, the Government have sanctioned, with effect from the current year, the grant of special scholarships tenable by lady students undergoing the Intermediate course with a view to pursuing the B.O.L. course as well as by lady students undergoing B.O.L. or Honours course in the regional languages. Steps will be taken to award these in the course of this year.

Lastly, in order to ameliorate further the conditions of employees in aided secondary schools, it has been decided that grants calculated at one-half of the Government rate of dearness allowance or war allowance should be paid to the management, irrespective of whether the managements pay from their own funds the other half of the allowances in full or not, so that the Government's liability in this behalf may be discharged in full. The Government have ordered that in addition to the teaching grant for 1945–46 payable in the current year, a special grant equal to half the difference between the maximum amount of allowance admissible at Government rates and the amount of allowance actually paid by the management to the staff in aided educational institutions in 1945–46 which will be taken into account in assessing the teaching grant, be paid to the managements in the current year. The Managements will also be required to disburse to the staff the amount of allowance due out of the special grant.

Elementary Education

The aim of the Government is to liquidate illiteracy within about 15 years. Compulsion was introduced during 1945–46 in selected centres in each of the districts of this Province. Further centres have been selected for the introduction of compulsion during the current year. The Hon'ble Minister for Education is contemplating measures to bring all school-age children under instruction in less than 15 years. The chief obstacles that stand in the way of quickening the pace of

mass literacy are the lack of accommodation and lack of teachers. Government is considering proposals for type designs for school buildings which may be put up at Government cost. The provision of further facilities for the training of teachers is receiving the active attention of the Educational Department.

Feeding Scheme

This scheme was introduced in 1945-46 at selected centres and food was supplied to poor children in the centres thus selected. The feeding arrangements were to be made by local committees but unfortunately at many of the centres the scheme could not work on account of the indifference of the members of the local committees. Thus the greater portion of the Rs. 20 lakhs allotted for the purpose remained unutilised. During the current year too, feeding has not been introduced at many centres but it is hoped that when there is an improvement in the supply of rice, the local committees will take more interest in providing the poor children with the midday meal.

Teachers

Government have proposed to train about 40,000 teachers during the next five years. The provision of higher rates of stipends and the prospects of higher scales of salaries have already attracted larger number of candidates for training than during the previous year. Additional training schools and classes were opened in 1945 and 1946 and steps are being taken to provide further facilities for the training of teachers. In addition to this, the course of training for secondary grade teachers has been reduced to one year. This is called the "emergency course of training." The higher grade teachers trained in or after 1940-41 and those trained prior to 1940-41 but who have had five years' teaching experience subsequent to their passing the T.S.L.C. examination have been given permission to appear for the secondary grade T.S.L.C. examination without further training provided they have passed the University Matriculation examination or are otherwise eligible for admission to the university course of studies. Government have also permitted higher grade trained teachers who have put in 3 years' service in recognised schools after passing the T.S.L.C. examination to appear as 'private' candidates for the S.S.L.C. examination. It is, therefore, hoped that within a year or two, there will be no dearth of trained teachers.

Basic Education

A school for the training of teachers for basic education has ben opened at Perianaickenpalayam in the Coimbatore district and about 80 trained teachers have been admitted for this training. The Government propose to open basic training schools in a number of centres in 1947-48 as the ultimate aim of Government is to establish basic primary education in this Province. Selected teachers have also been sent to Wardha for training and some of these will be in charge of the new training schools next year. The Government have also appointed a Committee to consider all questions relating to basic education.

Collegiate Education

During the current year, the Government have sanctioned the opening of Engineering Colleges at Vizagapatam and Anantapur, these colleges being temporarily located at Cocanada and Guindy respectively pending construction of buildings at Vizagapatam and Anantapur. Government have also opened a College for Muslim women in the Madras city.

II. Revenue

The Government of Madras have sanctioned a provisional grant of Rs. 5,000/-for distribution of food and repairs to huts in flood-affected areas in Dharmapuri division of Salem District.

III. Development

The Government have ordered an increase in the basic rations of yarn to looms owned by members of Weavers' Cooperative Societies by 20%. They have also ordered the admission of new members to Weavers' Co-operative Societies and the organisation of fresh Weavers' societies. They propose to review the position when the aggregate number of looms in the Co-operative field reaches 80,000.

Sanction has also been accorded to the payment of a subsidy of Rs. 1,000/- to the Khadi Spinning Centre, Uravakonda, Anantapur District, to enable the centre to meet the cost of 200 charkas which are being distributed by the Centre to the poor spinners of the locality.

THE BACKGROUND OF THE GOVERNMENT TEXTILE POLICY

By R. Vinayakam, M.A., B.L.

Assistant Development Commissioner, (South).

KHADI is to clothe the villagers in the province. It is no longer to be merely 'the livery of our freedom.' It is to lead in the progressive decentralisation of industry and the restoration of man to his rightful place in production and distribution. It is to be the livery of a new way of life based on self-sufficiency and integration.

This is the New Deal for Khadi. This is the basis of the Khadi Scheme of the Madras Government. This is the objective from which we have to consider their decision to prevent the erection of new mills and the expansion of the old. Their decision has given rise to a spate of one-sided and over-weighted criticism in the Press. The agitation and frenzy of the industrialists who are afraid of losing a tried and established enterprise for investing their large war profits could be understood. No Government, not even one based on non-violence, could wait till the heart-conversion of these capitalists before launching upon schemes of amelioration. Can prohibition wait till the blessing of toddy shop contractors is obtained?

But one gets somewhat worried at the nervousness shown by the urban public and the upper middle class as a result of misleading propaganda. They should study the question with open-mindedness and awareness of all the issues involved in it: and, if they are convinced of its soundness, give it their whole-hearted backing. No scheme of any Government can succeed without the understanding and co-operation of the people.

What is the basis of the Khadi Movement?

Social structure in the world was simple and wholesome till the middle of the 18th century when the Industrial Revolution in England and the establishment of Imperial control over India changed the face of things. The invention of machinery and the discovery of steam power to drive them opened the eyes of greedy money makers to the possibilities of enormous profits. The 'enterprise' of the East India Company helped English industrialists to obtain large funds, greater quantities of raw materials and a clear market for finished goods which are required for the success of large scale industry. The result was the finest textile industry in the world was destroyed, the artisans driven to unskilled work in agriculture and the masses in India reduced to a rustic life of under-employment and semi-starvation. What happened in textiles followed in one industry after another and we are even to-day witnessing the decay of the old village economy which was the basis for our prosperity.

But we are told we cannot go back to the days of the 'bullock cart' but have to step up industrialisation through which the world everywhere else is 'progressing.'

What is this industrialisation? It is the use of power and machinery in the limitless production of goods and services for the use of man. It is based on the dictum that the more man gets by way of goods and services the happier he is. Jesus said that the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath: similarly one would feel that goods and services are only for the benefit of man's realisation of his full personality and should be regulated in accordance with that aim. Man, the common man, who constitutes the preponderant majority of the 200 crores of people or more in the world should not be made just a tool for the production of goods and services. Those who have followed the course of events in the world since the Industrial Revolution are agreed that it set the European Powers on a race for the grab of colonies, of LEBENSRAUM, of markets and raw materials. All these are compendiously

connoted by the term 'Imperialism'. These are the bases on which we have to rear centralised industries. Centralisation or industrialisation, so-called, cannot function without imperialism. It is untrue to think that Imperialism is the sin of the Britisher or the Westerner. It is the inevitable way of life of those who choose centralisation. We saw its operation in Japan. Should India also follow suit?

Centralisation, again, brings in its train all the evils of an over-emphasised money economy. Money, instead of functioning as a medium of exchange, becomes a commodity which is to be accumulated and which is to replace the necessity of having to work for your living. Under money economy, the poor are always worsted. Wages may increase, money may become easy but the lot of the poor only deteriorates. Do we not see this face to face to-day?

It does not matter fo this purpose, whether the Government of the country is capitalist or socialist. Socialist countries also are obliged to become empire-builders. Look at Russia's zeal for the oil wells in the Middle East. Russia might say that it has to follow the Western Powers for self-defence; or she may feel that she is thereby making the world 'safe' for socialism. The result, for the common man, is much the same, if not worse. Global wars, for which the world has become the Kurukshetra every twenty years, are the inevitable concomitant of industrialisation. The atom bomb, which has been certified by eminent scientists as capable of destroying all the cities in the world in a few days, is the logical outcome of an economy based on indefinite mechanisation.

And to what is man reduced in the meanwhile? He becomes the mill operative who is to work endlessly in minute and unintelligent occupation and waste his body and mind in the process. In the village economy man's personality was whole and wholesome. Under mechanized economy it is broken to bits and, for consolation, he is shown the enormous production which he has helped to produce and which is for his use. In other words he is to follow the fellow in the old fable who purchased a glow worm to help him in the dark in exchange for his eyes. His instincts and sensibilities are to be dulled by his occupation. His moral sense is to be nullified. Industrialists should gloat over the wholesale destruction of enormous quantities of foodstuffs (should not large scale production reconcile you to large scale destruction?) in an attempt to keep up prices. Imperialist Powers should be allowed to force Indians and Chinese to mass destruction by nationwide famines. Socialists should be allowed to grow self-righteous over scorched earth policies.

We would rather follow Gandhiji's scheme of life which postulates that man is more important than 'his purchasing power' or rather producing power; that man's mind and body and soul are dearer possessions than goods and services, that the latter are welcome only in so far as they conduce to the former, that simplicity with sanity is better than self-indulgence which takes us 'through the primrose path to the everlasting bonfire'.

Centralisation and decentralisation cannot go together, at any rate not in the same industry. We cannot ride on two horses at a time. Khadi, if it is to become the cloth of the millions, and not remain the dress of the fastidious few, cannot grow along with the spinning and weaving mills. Till today Governmental functions, such as communications, research, tariffs etc., have been used for the benefit of centralised units and to the detriment of village industries. The result is that the former are well developed and well entrenched and can always beat Khadi in an open competition. Government which protected Indian as against foreign mills in the past have now to protect the village, as against the mechanised industries. The baby can never beat the puppy in a running race in open competition.

This is the foundation on which the Khadi scheme of the Madras Government is based. It stands or falls according to the popular acceptance or rejection of this scheme of life. Being a pioneer Governmental venture, the Madras Ministry is proceeding about it with moderation and step by step. Wealthy persons who are in need of luxury goods are welcome to the benefits of mechanized and centralised production. But centralisation is not allowed free play in the production of primary needs of the masses, the poorest of the poor, like food and clothing.

The scheme is to be tried as an experimental measure, under the immediate and detailed supervision of Gandhiji and his expert collegues, in selected areas, and to be extended, in the light of experience. Congressmen themselves might differ about the advisability of the scheme; legal and administrative difficulties might help to protect the vested interests; but if the people understand and appreciate the background of the scheme, Government would have secured its moral authority, which is after all their real authority. Governments stay or fall, not on legal technicalities, but on the will of the people.

PROTECT POULTRY FROM RANIKHET DISEASE

JAN

DISCOVERY OF NEW VACCINE

(*By R. Venkataraman, G.M.V.C., Research Officer, Ranikhet Vaccine Production*).

THE havoc caused by this dreadful disease of Ranikhet among fowls and the consequent economic and financial losses sustained by poultry owners are well known to the public. Due to this epizootic, poultry breeders and fanciers were vexed over the problem of successfully raising poultry. The rapid course of the disease with a high mortality resulting from it, has baffled the efforts of scientists in discovering a suitable curative or preventive remedy all these years. The search for a remedy against this disease that would make poultry rearing a success began in 1928 and efforts were continuing even till last year, when, as a result of experiments conducted by Specialists at the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute, Mukteswar, a new vaccine of proved immunity was evolved. The discovery of this vaccine during the war, proved a boon to the Army Authorities in India, as it enabled them to supply table birds and eggs in sufficient numbers for the troops. At last, the long awaited remedy for this scourge of poultry has been found in this vaccine.

Preparation of the Vaccine: The new vaccine behind which is the secret of this disease control and prevention is manufactured from chicken embryos infected with a strain of Ranikhet Disease Virus lowered in virulence by laboratory methods. It is a live vaccine.

For the preparation of this vaccine, fresh eggs of good size are obtained from a farm known to be free from this disease. The eggs are cleaned and incubated in an incubator. They are then examined by candling on the ninth day, when the infertile eggs and those showing dead embryos are removed. The fertile eggs are reset in the incubator and taken out from it again on the tenth day and recandled to eliminate those showing subsequent deaths, if any, and to enable the location of the embryo which has to be injected with the seed material. A piece of shell is removed with a cutting disc attached to a dental drill and the shell membrane is punctured; the underlying chorio-allontoic membrane is depressed to receive the inoculation. One or two drops of the seed material is instilled into this spot which gets deposited over the chorio-allontoic membrane. A sterile cover-slip is placed over the triangular window and sealed air-tight with paraffin. The inoculated eggs are incubated at 37°C. for 48 hours. The inoculation is absorbed by the chorio-allontoic membrane which is rich in blood-vessels and the embryo having become infected, usually dies in the course of 36 to 48 hours. After this period, the eggs are opened under sterile precautions and the fluid surrounding the embryo which is akin to the placental fluid of mammals, is collected with a small sterile pipette and stored in a refrigerator. The fluid collected from several such eggs is pooled and tested for sterility culturally. No preservative is added. The safety, potency and immunity of the vaccine are assessed by biological tests at the laboratory. This constitutes the standardised vaccine.

Properties of the vaccine: This vaccine is not a curative one. It is very fragile and sensitive to exposure to atmospheric temperature and is therefore always stored in ice in hermetically sealed glass ampoules. Near freezing point, however it remains quite stable for at least 3 to 4 months. Immunity is set up in 2 days after vaccination; a definite and lasting immunity is conferred to the birds. This vaccine is highly concentrated and 1 c.c. of this is sufficient to protect 1,000 birds. As three to four c.c. can be collected from each chick embryo, vaccine from one egg can protect three to four thousand birds.

How to use this vaccine: This concentrated vaccine is transported to the field through reliable persons in wide-mouthed, one pint

thermos flasks containing ice which should be replaced before all the ice melts away, (i.e.) at least every 24 hours; at the time of use, 1 c.c. of the concentrated vaccine is diluted in 1,000 c.c. of low temperature water which has been previously filtered, boiled and cooled on ice or in a refrigerator overnight. This diluted mixture is vigorously shaken and used immediately. It is kept protected from direct sunlight especially in hot weather. The diluted vaccine is injected under the skin or into the muscles in doses of 1 c.c. A good site in adult birds is under the fold of skin on the inside of the wing and in the case of chickens, the leg muscles. Healthy birds alone are protected. This vaccine should not be used on sick birds or on birds in the incubative stage of the disease as it will not cure the disease. Any diluted vaccine not utilised in the day of preparation must be discarded.

Advantage was taken of the recent advance made in the control of this disease and this vaccine is now being produced at the Madras Veterinary College itself. The Government are now in a position to prevent, by vaccination, serious losses among fowls on account of this disease. The poultry at the Government Research stations and at several of the poultry Demonstration Units, Mission poultry farms, and those of the private bodies, have been protected by this vaccine with successful results.

Vaccine reaction and after-care: After vaccination, some birds may show drowsiness from the 4th to 6th day followed by greenish loose motions; the birds generally feed well; when appetite is impaired in a few birds, they may be nursed and fed on soft wet mash and buttermilk till they are normal; a few birds show slight weakness in gait or lameness which usually clears up in a fortnight. Birds exhibiting illness or symptoms of paralysis at a later stage (i.e.) after 2-3 weeks of vaccination should be suspected for Coccidisis and necessary preventive measures taken. Birds with severe lameness or paralysis should be segregated and if no improvement is noticed within the few following days, they should be disposed off for table purpose. This occurs only in a small percentage of vaccinated birds (say 1-3%). In laying hens, a temporary drop in egg laying occurs, but usually returns to normal in about 4 weeks. So it is generally advisable to have the vaccination done before the pullets have startel laying (i.e.) between 4 and 5 months of age. Vaccinated birds should not be exposed to infection for at least a week following vaccination. They should be fed carefully and housed properly against inclement weather, chill winds, etc. This vaccine cannot eradicate the disease. It is advisable to withhold vaccination against this disease, if some other infectious poultry disease prevails in the area and also during very hot months.

Get your birds protected: Pea-fowls, turkeys and fowls of all breeds and chickens above two months of age can be protected with this vaccine. Since all healthy birds can be protected, do not wait till the disease sets in and then think of protection. Prevention is always better than cure. You may consult the Principal, Madras Veterinary College, the District Veterinary Officer, or the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon in your locality, to arrange for the immunisation of your flock.

Poultry owners in the City of Madras are informed that fowls are vaccinated against this disease at the Madras Veterinary College. The vaccination is done free of cost on all working days between 7-30 to 10 a.m.

Food Propaganda in the Districts

Despite heavy rain and bad weather, the work turned out by the District food propaganda officials was encouraging for the fortnight ending 30-10-46, according to the report received from the office of the Provincial Controller of Food rationing. During this period, 546 demonstrations were held in the districts excluding Malabar. In some places the Mistresses of schools and the members of I.W.C.C. helped the lecturers and demonstrators in their work.

The villagers in some districts are still suspicious of unfamiliar foodstuffs like maize. For example there was a complaint from a few villagers in N. Arcot district that they have got rheumatic pains and swelling in the joints on account of using maize, for a week. Another lady from Trichy was reported to have said that scabies all over the body would be the result of taking maize. The lecturers repudiated these and convinced them that those diseases were not the results of eating maize but due to other reasons.

TOWARDS INCREASING THE CATTLE WEALTH OF INDIA

Steps and Schemes of Government Outlined

ONE of the greatest obstacles to the improvement of livestock in this presidency is the acute shortage of suitable breeding bulls. The two Government livestock farms in Salem and Guntur Districts are being expanded considerably. Yet it is essential that private breeders should be encouraged to maintain as many good bulls at stud as possible. With this end in view, the Government have initiated the following schemes.

A premium of Rs. 170 for the first year, and a slightly less amount for the subsequent four years is granted towards the maintenance of stud bulls. The District Boards also undertake the purchase of a certain number of pure bred, breeding animals and distribute them among the ryots. The Government usually bear 2/5 of the cost of purchase. The Government also purchase a certain number of young and adult breeding animals and distribute them free to ryots in the breeding tracts. If these bulls serve 180 cows during a period of three years, they become the property of the custodian. Besides these, bulls are also maintained in veterinary institutions, where they can be of free service.

A large number of good cows and buffaloes, are brought into the Madras City annually for urban milk supply and are either slaughtered prematurely or rendered unfit for breeding. Steps have been taken to prevent this depletion of cattle wealth.

A Breed Society has been formed in the Coimbatore District and a scheme for the improvement of Kangayam cattle is also working there.

In order to care for the welfare of the progeny, a calf subsidy scheme has been put through and a liberal subsidy of Rs. 35 per calf is granted.

An effective start has also been made in grading village cattle. This scheme aims at eliminating bad blood.

The creation of village livestock farms, where breeding operations will take place under the control of the Government is also being considered.

The Coimbatore District Board has also been maintaining some stallions for pony breeding.

Steps are also being taken to teach the shepherd the proper methods of shearing. An experiment in the improvement of the local sheep is also being conducted.

In addition to the many poultry farms, 24 poultry demonstrations are also being maintained.

Many schemes providing for much additional veterinary aid and more supervisory staff and research workers are being considered.

Resettlement News

The following is a report of resettlement activities, giving the number of ex-servicemen who have been helped to find employment.

During the second fortnight of November, 9 men at Nellore, 10 at Bellary, 27 at Cuddapah, 48 at Trichinopoly, 85 in Madras City, 20 in N. Arcot, 13 in West Godaveri district and 60 in S. Arcot district have been resettled.

The number of men who have been resettled during the whole month of November is 33 in Ramnad, 90 in Madura and 61 in Nilgiris.

In Chingleput district 371 men have been resettled so far, 1,654 in Tinnevelly, 909 in Tanjore, and 484 in Anantapur.

In Kurnool the Rudravaram Land Colony was registered on 26-11-46. Besides these, land colony schemes in many other places are also in operation. Work is also being carried on in Siddarampuram Land Colony at Anantapur.

SOUTH INDIAN VILLAGE COMMUNITIES

RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT

(*V. R. R. Dikshitar, University of Madras*)

Evidence of Tamil Literature

THAT great historian of India E.B. Havell wrote, "Neither ancient nor modern history in Europe can show a system of local self-government more scientifically planned nor one which provided more effective safeguards against abuses, than that which was worked out by Aryan philosophers as the social and political basis of Indo-Aryan religion. The liberty of the Englishman was wrung from unwilling rulers by bitter struggles and by civil war. India's Aryan constitution was a free gift of the intellectuals to the people; it was designed, not in the interest of one class, but to secure for all classes as full a measure of liberty and of spiritual and material possessions as their respective capacities and consideration for the common weal permitted." What Havell has said is true of South India also. He built up a theory that South Indian institutions were all based on northern Indian model. The fact is that local institutions and methods of administration had an independent growth and perhaps ran on parallel lines in the North as well as in the South. This is made abundantly clear from a study of ancient classics in Tamil and the vast mass of inscriptions.

A Self-contained Unit

If we turn to the pages of Sangam works we meet with the statements which go to show that the village which went by different names such asur, perur, mudur, sirur formed the unit of administration. Each village was a self-contained unit. Agriculture and cottage industries ministered to the essential needs of the people, food and clothing. There was no difficulty for shelter. Every village had its own occupational or functional groups such as drummers, fishermen, merchants, carpenters, smiths, agricultural labourers, washermen, oil mongers, etc., each group plying its own trade and without competing with other professionals. Each artisan or trader was schooled in the home in his teens by his elders, generally the father or elder brothers of the family. Such training enabled them to become master carpenters, master smiths, etc., in their turn. Thus the organisation of the village was communal in character. All the various professions became different groups of a big community which we call the great village community. All of them contributed in their own way to the welfare and progress of the village. The bond of common religious beliefs and practices further cemented the kinship between the various groups and promoted the happiness of the villagers as such.

Independent Republics

These village communities were tiny independent republics. They were not disturbed by the Central Government. They owed their allegiance to the central executive by the payment of a fixed annual sum. Otherwise the political affairs of the village were in the hands of elders of the village, normally designated *Kilar*. The term *Kilar* appended to a certain village and mentioned as the name of a post or chieftain suggests the idea of that poet or chieftain being the head of the village. The ancient name for the village sabha or assembly was *manram*. It was the meeting place of the village folk either for administering justice and adjudicating case, or for social amenities. It formed often the village theatre or dancing hall. Even members of the fair sex seem to have participated in the *manrams*. It is said that women whose husbands were dead, stopped from going there and avoided mingling with the public. Otherwise it was a resort of men and women.

In this *manram* or village assembly, culprits and offenders who were brought to book were taken for examination of their case and punishment. The elders of the village who evoked respect and adoration from the public formed a Court of their own. They went into the cases and awarded punishment according to the gravity of the offence. Their decision was binding. And their order amounted to obedience by the whole country. This was the nucleus of the future panchayat system. Besides administration of justice,

affairs of local importance came under the purview of these elders who represented the village community as a whole. They looked after the sanitation and health of the village besides attending to the protection and defence of the village. It appears that theft and robbery were rampant. By a system of night watchmen, the whole village was guarded. They patrolled the streets of the village all night with lights in their hands. It was usual for grain dealers and others engaged in merchandise to carry bales of goods from one village to the other. Lest they should be molested by robbers, efficient watchmen were stationed on the rural roads separating one village from the other.

By means of small committees the village community looked after the general interest of the village. These Committees supervised gardens, tanks, irrigation canals and bunds and saw that efficient work was turned out. In fine the village enjoyed absolute independence in the arrangement of its internal affairs and all business was transacted by men of integrity and impartiality. Thus the foundations of true democracy were truly laid in the early centuries of the Christian era.

II

Under the Pallavas & the Cholas

If we turn from literature to South Indian inscriptions, we shall see that the old system of village sabhas continued to work more vigorously and more efficiently in the Pallava and the Chola periods. The name of the assembly was known as ur or a Sabha. These village parliaments, as they have been happily designated, took keen interest in beautifying rural parts, in promoting their welfare and in keeping peace. If they were in any way responsible to the Central Government, it was only in the payment of taxes which were purely annual. These village community organisations distributed lands among cultivators, collected the share of the produce, effected now and then sale of lands, approved grants of land or other things to religious purposes and took over the holdings in default of payment of taxes.

Benevolent Kings

Though the decision of the Assembly was final in almost all matters, sometimes there was a dispute over complicated matters when the King was made aware of them. He usually sent a representative as Arbitrator who finally decided the disputed points between the party and the assembly. When the assembly could not deal satisfactorily with certain landholders who had evaded payment of taxes continuously for a period of three years, it appealed to the King to settle the matter. The Chola King Rajarajadeva himself adjudicated in this case. The King ordered that the lands in question might be sold by the village community, the defaulters being excluded from it. Bu it may be noted that such interference was the exception and not the rule. The constitution provided that the village assembly had to appeal to the Mahasabha, which lorded over a group of neighbouring villages and this Mahasabha, a great assembly, had the power to book these offenders and punish them generally by fines. Again in times of emergency the King could order an increase in revenue but he generally did it after previously consulting the village assembly and getting its approval. Far from oppressing the subjects the king tried to please them as far as possible. A certain Chola King by a stroke of pen abolished all tolls and came to be popularly known Sugandavrita Chola.

Constitution Of Sabhas

Of the constitution and working of the village assembly we are in a possession of a wealth of details. The inscriptions at Uttaramerur, Chingleput District, throw considerable light on the method of organisation and administration. This was in the reign of the Chola King Parantaka. The Sabha was divided into several Committees. The members of the Sabha at this place were thirty. It was a big village or township and the whole village was divided for purposes of collection and representation into thirty wards. Each ward put up its candidates for election.

The qualifications to contest elections for candidates were explicit. Some of them were:—

(1) One should possess more than a quarter *veli* of the tax-paying land.

(2) He must own a house built on his own site.

(3) He should not be less than 35 in age or more than sixty.

(4) He must be proficient in the Mantra and Brahmana literature.

An impartial observer could judge from this that property qualifications, educational qualifications and age qualifications were taken into account.

The list of disqualifications was a more formidable one. Some of them were:—

(1) Those members who had served on the Committees and had not submitted their accounts properly were disqualified.

(2) The near relatives of members were ineligible to avoid favouritism being shown.

(3) Those who have committed heinous sins such as killing Brahmans, drinking intoxicating liquors, thieving and committing adultery were not eligible for election. In other words, persons who had no character and who would not consequently command the respect of the public were excluded.

(4) Those who had infringed the conventions of the society and had been dubbed as outcastes, by taking forbidden dishes and by indulging in illicit intercourse were disqualified. These are enough to show how public opinion asserted itself in the matter of election. Only those who were reputed for their morals could be chosen. To say the least there was no room for corruption in such elections.

The elections by themselves anticipated the modern parliamentary procedure. After the nominations were declared valid, the names of persons thus nominated were written on bits of palmyrah leaf. These were thrown into a narrow-mouthed pot and shaken several times in the presence of the whole assembly. Then a child was asked to take out of the pot one chit after another, and the names of the persons were read out and declared elected. These persons held office normally for a year. The elected 30 members formed themselves into various committees, some of six each. These were Annual Committee, Garden Committee, Gold Committee, Irrigation or Tank Committee, Tax Committee, the Committees for administering justice and for other purposes. Severally and jointly those committees looked after the interests of the village or township.

(To be concluded in the next issue.)

Pandit Jawaharlal, addressing the Irrigation Conference held recently, emphasised the need to educate the common man on the potentialities of irrigation and electricity.

WHEAT & MAIZE RECIPE

IDDLI

Ingredients.	S. I. Measure.	Std. Measure.
Blackgram	¼ Ollock	1⅜ Oz.
Wheat flour	¼ Ollock	1¼ Oz.
Maize flour	¼ Ollock	1 Oz.
Salt	1½ Teaspoon	1½ Teaspoon.
Water	½ Ollock	7/10 Cup.
Baking soda	⅛ Teaspoon	⅛ Teaspoon.

Method:

1. Soak the blackgram for 4-6 hours and grind.

2. Mix with other ingredients except baking soda and leave it to sour overnight.

3. In the morning add baking soda, mix well and steam iddlis

ADDAI

Ingredients.	S. I. Measure.	Std. Measure.
Wheat flour	½ Ollock	2½ Oz.
Maize flour	½ Ollock	2 Oz.
Onions	Two	Two
Green Chillies	Four	Four
Ginger	A small piece	A small piece
Curry leaves	A few	A few
Salt	3 Teaspoons	3 Teaspoons
Water	½ Ollock & 2 Tablespoons	

Method:

1. Chop the onions and green chillies and ginger.

2. Mix all ingredients well.

3. Take portions and spread over a grated iron pan in the form of addais and turn over when half cooked and remove when fullly cooked.

PAGODA

Ingredients.	S. I. Measure.	Std. Measure.
Maize flour	½ Ollock	1 Oz.
Wheat flour	¼ Ollock	1¼ Oz.
Onion	½ Ollock	½ Oz.
Green Chillies	Two	Two.
Salt	½ Teaspoon	½ Teaspoon.
Water	4 Tablespoons	4 Tablespoon.s
Ginger	A piece	A piece.

Method:

1. Mix chopped onions and green chillies with other ingredients adding water to form a thick batter.

2. Shape small portions and fry in deep oil till brown.

VADAI

Ingredients.	S. I. Measure.	Std. Measure.
Wheat flour	½ Ollock	2½ Oz.
Maize flour	½ Ollock	2 Oz.
Onions	Two	Two
Green Chillies	Four	Four
Ginger	A small piece	A small piece
Curry leaves	A few	A few
Coriander	A few	A few
Salt	2½ Teaspoons	2½ Teaspoons
Curds	7 Tablespoons	7 Tablespoons

Method:

1. Chop onions, green chillies etc.

2. Mix all ingredients with curds.

3. Shape vadais and fry in deep oil.

MURUKKU

Ingredients.	S. I. Measure.	Std. Measure
Wheat flour	½ Ollock	2½ Oz.
Maize flour	Ollock	2 Oz.
Greengram	¼ Ollock	2½ Ozs. (approx)
Salt	1½ Teaspoon	1½ Teaspoon
Water	7 Tablespoons	7 Tablespoons
Gingelly seed	1 Teaspoon	1 Teaspoon
Cumin	1 Teaspoon	1 Teaspoon
Asafoetida	A bit	A bit
Dalda	1 Teaspoon	1 Teaspoon

Method:

1. Roast the green gram and powder it on the "ammi kal" to dry flour.

2. Mix all ingredients to form a thick paste.

3. Extract the paste through a squeezer (murukku kola) and fry in deep oil until crisp and brown.

PANIGARAM

Ingredients.	S. I. Measure	Std. Measure.
Wheat flour	½ Ollock	2½ Ozs.
Maize flour	½ Ollock	2 Ozs.
Sugar	5 Table-spoons	5 Table-spoons
Salt	⅛ teaspoon	⅛ Teaspoon
Plantain	One	One
Egg	One	One
Soda bicarbonate	⅛ Teaspoon	⅛ Teaspoon
Water	6 Table-spoons	6 Table-spoons

Method:

1. Beat egg and add sugar to it.

2. Add maize flour and wheat flour and mix well.

3. Mash the plantain well and add it to the above.

4. Add salt and water and mix well.

5. Fry in oil, pouring the batter from a spoon. Remove when brown.

Note.—Panigaram may also be done without egg, using 2 plantains and enough water to make a pour batter i.e. 8 tablespoons instead of 6.

OUR CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

II. SIGRIYA

(The first article of this series, "Borabudur: Java', appeared in the 4th issue of *Madras Information.*)

WHEN Buddhism penetrated Ceylon through the efforts of the missionaries of Emperor Asoka, art also accompanied it from the mother country.

During the creative age of the great Guptas, Buddhist art flourished from the Oxus to Ceylon on account of the settled conditions of the country attributable to a time of peace and prosperity: and during this reign no antipathy was shown to the Buddhist faith though the rulers were themselves Vaishnavite Hindus.

Painting and plastic art evolved and blossomed out in an exquisite form and style, and the names of Ajanta, Bagh and Sigriya are landmarks in the history of painting in India and Ceylon.

The fresco paintings in these places are records of the consummation of Buddhist painting in India and are the only survival of a number of them which existed in the country during the early centuries of the Christian era. The famous Chinese pilgrims Fa-Hian in the 5th century A.D. and Hiuen Tsang in the 7th century A.D. have recorded buildings at widely different places which were remarkable on account of the mural paintings they contained. As the influence of Buddhism declined, these wonderful paintings gradually fell into decay; and they disappeared completely with the Muslim invasion. Ajanta and Bagh survived as they were monastic retreats lying far from the sphere of political and religious strife and Sigriya owes its security to its inaccessibility. These paintings have outlived the ravages of time and have come down to us as they were executed on the surface of imperishable rocks well protected against the effects of the elements. These frescoes hold the same position in Indian painting as the works of the "Old Masters" hold in the art of Europe. It is said that these paintings were a source of great inspiration to artists all over the East and that their influence extended far beyond the country of their birth. The breadth of conception and simplicity of treatment stamp these frescoes as the work of a school of great artists, and particularly as one of the finest achievements of the Buddhist artists. The treatment is so subtle that it embodies all the essential elements of the art. The complexities of the human form have been well analysed and by means of simple lines the whole universe is revealed masterfully.

On the summit of a 600 foot hill adjoining Anuradhapura in Ceylon is situated Sigriya surrounded by immense plains in whose womb was discovered the famous frescoes that thrilled an astonished world. This place was founded by King Kasyapa and its origin is as romantic as its appearance is majestic.

About 460 A.D. Lanka was ruled by King Datusena to whom was born Kasyapa through a courtean, and Mogalana and a princess through the consort. When the princess came of age King Datusena got her married to his army chief Migara who it is said one day publicly disgraced the princess in the open court of her father by flogging her for some misconduct. This exhibition roused the indignation of the king so much that he at once ordered that Migara's mother should be burnt alive as the person responsible for all this trouble. The sentence was carried out and Migara and the King became inveterate foes. Finding that there was not much love lost between Kasyapa and King Datusena, Migara the scheming villain, contrived to enlist the support of the illegitimate son of the king and one day set upon the king and buried him alive.

Hearing of this Mogalana fled from Ceylon to India fearing the wrath of his half-brother and the vicious brother-in-law.

Kasyapa became the undisputed master of the situation and declared himself King of Ceylon and began his reign from the ancient capital Anuradhapura. His conscience never giving him peace of mind and ever dreading his brother's revenge, Kasyapa decided to entrench himself and gain security by turn- his brother's revenge, Kasyapa decided to fortress and safe refuge. The idea was soon executed and the fortress of Sigriya with its formidable rampart walls and battlements soon lifted itself up to the skies like a mighty giant. Kasyapa constructed a palace for himself on the summit of the hill of which only the foundations survive today, and as a means of access to the hill he built a walled gallery with a facade in the form of an enormous seated lion (which has given its name to the rock) facing north, the direction of his enemy. Thither the king migrated with his subjects abandoning the ancient Anuradhapura and for a period of 18 years (479—497 A.D.) had an undisturbed sway.

Early morning one day King Kasyapa seated in his royal garden saw in the north a thick forest—another forest as it were—crawling towards Sigriya: and as the sun rose higher and higher the moving forest revealed itself into a million glittering lances and spears and Kasyapa knew that his brother Mogalana had now returned from India with a vast army to avenge his father's death. Collecting his army the king now descended from his mountain stronghold—a very foolish thing to do—and clashed with great fury against his brother's hordes who stood their ground with poise and calm: and the battle raged with terrific violence. While attempting to negotiate a ditch his elephant suddenly turned its back to the opposing army and stood so obstinately that all Kasyapa's persuasions and proddings proved unavailing. His men imagined that the king lost the battle, suddenly gave up the fight and were soon overpowered and crushed. King Kasyapa dreading his fate if he were to fall alive into the hands of his brother, cut his throat with his sword and fell dead on the battlefield. His men now stood abjectly before the victorious Mogalana who furiously gnashed his teeth at the traitors that had helped the usurper for so long that one of his front teeth projected out of the mouth and remained so till his death, earning for him the nickname of Rakshasa.

Fearing no enemy henceforth, Mogalana gave up Sigriya as the seat of government and again transferred his capital to Anuradhapura where his predecessors had ruled. While leaving Sigriya he charged a few Bikshus to stay behind as on account of its seclusion and isolation it appeared suitable for their penance and meditations and such other religious activities. And to these Bikshus is attributed the authorship of the fresco paintings considered a marvel of paint and brush-work.

Today Sigriya looks shorn of those battlements and towers, and ruined foundations of this citadel are found strewn here and there.

After the Bikshus had taken up residence in Sigriya in response to the desire of Mogalana it is believed some very clever artists among them in order to beguile their tedium employed themselves on the very pleasant task of adorning the walls inside two sheltered rock pockets with figures of angelic damsels in paints of astonishing colours whose compositions are even today a puzzle to the modern mind Those colours appear today as fresh and bright as if they were laid on only yesterday. Who those wonderful geniuses were that had amused themselves with such pleasant pastime is the thought that arises in everybody's mind as he looks entranced at those captivating figures.

The technique adopted by those artists in the execution of their work is believed to be as follows. On the surface of the hard rock a layer of clay, cowdung and powdered rock mixed with rice husk to a thickness of from three to twenty millimetres was spread evenly. A thin coat of fine white lime plaster was overlaid on this, and kept moist while the colours were painted which were afterwards lightly polished. The underdrawings were red, then the local colours followed by a fresh outline of brown or black with some shading to give the effect of roundness.

The famous Ajanta frescoes in the State of Hyderabad which have attracted world-wide attention are considered today by art connoisseurs of the West as incomparable masterpieces of painting. And when the frescoes of Sigriya attributed to the fifth or the 6th century A.D. were discovered about the end of the 19th century, critics were astonished at their similarity to the Ajanta frescoes and averred that both should have been executed by the same artists or artists trained in the same school as dress, ornaments, pose and colouring are similar in both the frescoes. The artist-ascetics who created Sigriya had abandoned this haven, probably owing to the inconvenient situation of the hill,

Exposed to the mercy of wind and rain and overwhelmed by jungle vegetation and completely uninhabited by man and totally forgotten, Sigriya had sunk into oblivion for fifteen hundred years until it was discovered towards the close of the 19th century.

In the scenes depicted in the wonderful paintings of Sigriya there are in all twenty-one female figures, very delicately drawn with an eye to beauty and these handsome forms with beautiful arms and slender waists appear with their legs obscured by cloudlike formations, which gave rise to the surmise that these may be angelic beings. They are portrayed with flower-laden trays in their hands with a full-blown blosom held between the fingers in the act of going to a temple with faces wreathed in broad smiles. Their youth is emphasised by the clever artists by bringing out in full vigour the physical developments of their anatomy. Some opine that these damsels are not imaginary angels but the portraits of queens and princesses of King Kasyapa's court with their attendants on the way to worship at the Buddhist vihara of Piduragala about a mile north of Sigriya. The figures are apparently walking in that direction.

In order to show prominently their bodies the artists very cunningly hid their legs behind the clouds. The subtlety with which this idea is executed reveals at once the master minds that planned and perfected this great work of art. Not only that, it also shows with what facility they could master different colours as well as produce new ones and apply them in the best possible manner with the best possible effect.

Though apparently these female forms are nude, a more careful examination shows that they are draped in the most transparent muslin robes as thin as a film. A redundancy of ornament is evident on the queen or maid. Some of these women have yellow and some others orange complexion and do not look alike. Some scholars are inclined to the view that they are Mongols or Aryans. The Aryan types have oval face, thick fleshy lips, straight Grecian nose and forehead. And the Mongol types are characterised by almond eyes. Their female servants are painted in a mixture of blue and green colours supporting the view that they were dark-complexioned. That in Kasyapa's court various classes and races of people lived is another view.

Some think that the Bikshus confined to the caves of Sigriya took advantage of the inaccessibility of the place and its unfrequented nature to give expression to their suppressed emotions in a riotous manner by painting to their great delectation lusty female figures: and lest the world should misunderstand and misjudge their sense of moral values for resorting to such motifs they had given a turn to them by representing them as bound for a temple. How far such interpretations are just to those divine artists who had strained every nerve to leave to posterity a great art treasure that raised this nation to an outstanding place of pre-eminence in the scale of cultural evolution, perhaps nobody will ever be able to tell.

(Broadcast from the A. I. R., Madras by S. Swaminathan).

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WORKERS MUST CAST OFF THE RED YOKE

Sardar Patel Condemns Communists' Activities

"THE Communist Party in India, which always seeks its inspiration from Russia, is advocating a path of violence and strikes and the disruption of industries," said Sardar Vallabhai Patel, addressing the Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh workers in Bombay on December 3.

He warned the workers not to be misled by the Communists, but to organise themselves in a disciplined way and prepare themselves for the supreme task of governing the country.

Sardar Patel said the British were relinquishing their hold on India, and an Interim National Government was in power at the Centre. The workers should realise that India was on the threshold of freedom, and they should help their own Government to solve the many grim problems facing them. "India will soon rank with the most advanced and modern countries in the world."

He criticised the role of the Communist Party in India, which was always advocating a diametrically opposite path to that of the Congress, and was trying to mislead the mass of workers.

"When the Congress was asking the British to quit India in 1942, the Communists raised the slogan of people's war, and asked the people to cooperate with the British Government in war efforts. Now, when the British were preparing themselves to hand over power to the Indians, the Communists were clamouring for launching a struggle with the British Government."

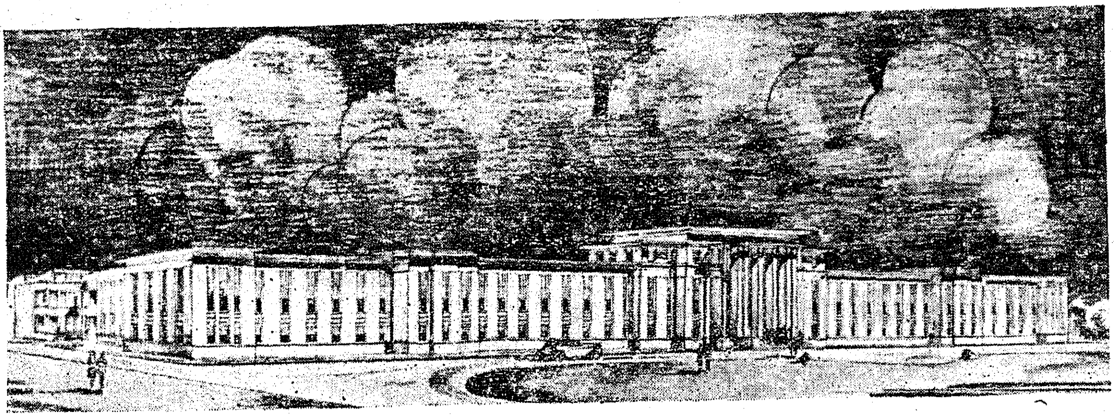
Strike Fever

The Communists in the course of last year, organised many strikes in the country, disrupting the industries and dislocating certain essential services. But these strikes brought no benefit to the workers. These strikes were neither in the interests of the workers nor the people. The only result of these strikes was a big fall in the industrial production and great loss to the industries.

Sardar Patel wanted the workers to note that when there are continuous industrial strikes, it was the common people who suffered mostly from scarcity of essential goods like cloth, textiles and other consumer goods. The workers must realise their responsibility in the task of stabilising industrial production in this country for the benefit of the community as a whole. He asked the workers to join the Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh, which was a model organisation started to serve their interests.

"If you are well-disciplined and properly organised," said the Sardar, "nobody can turn down your legitimate demands and ignore you. But you must also remember that the strike is a weapon that is not to be used cheaply and frequently. You must not go on strike, unless your own Union has given you the call. You must try all the means at your disposal to settle your industrial disputes through conciliation, or through an Industrial Court. That alone would bring immense good to you and also strength to your Union."

JAN 1947 ... MADRAS



THE NATIONAL METALLURGICAL LABORATORY.

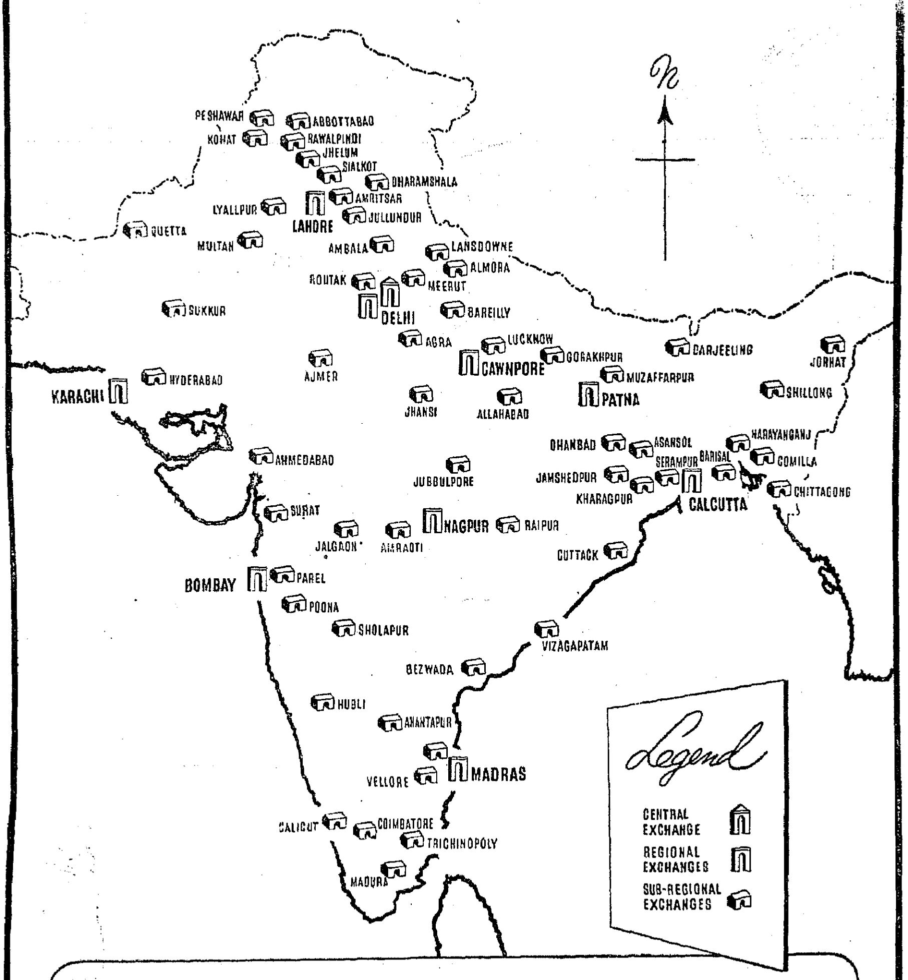
An artists's view of the National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, as it will look when completed. The Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Minister for Education, laid the foundation-stone of this Laboratory at Jamshedpur on November 21, 1946. The estimated capital cost of this Laboratory, the third in the chain of India's five National Laboratories, planned by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, is about Rs. 43 lakhs. Researches both fundamental and applied, in regard to ferrous and non-ferrous minerals and metals will be carried out in this Laboratory.

"If India is to embark on any kind of industrialisation, and achieve success in a reasonable measure, high priority must be given to the proper establishment of metallurgical industries, on an adequate scale", said the Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Education Member, Government of India laying the foundation-stone of the National Mellurgical Laboratory of India at Jamshedpur on November 21.

A large part of the hydro-electrical energy expected to be produced in the near future as a result of various hydro projects, he observed, would be available in the vicinity of the raw mineral resources of the country. "Electro-metallurgical and electro-chemical industries based on electricity thus available at low cost, can play a great role in the industrial life of the country".

Printed by E. Sendall at The Associated Printers, Mount Road, Madras

Map of INDIA *showing* the location of Employment Exchanges established under the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment in the Labour Department, Government of India



THE Government of India in the Labour Department have established a free Employment Service under the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment. The main object of this Service is to facilitate the orderly resettlement in civil life of ex-Servicemen and discharged war workers.

The running of Employment Exchanges is an integral part of the scheme. They serve as a link between the Employer and the Employment-seeker. A total of sixty-nine such Exchanges scattered throughout the country are already functioning in places shown on the map. They maintain records of vacancies notified to them by the Central and Provincial Governments and private employers and also the necessary details and qualifications of those employment-seekers who register their names for assistance in finding employment. This integrated Employment Service established on an all-India basis thus ensures the submission of the right man for the right job

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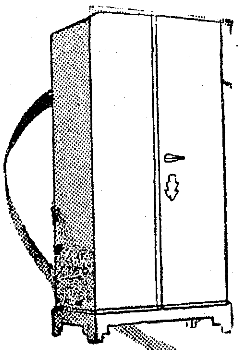

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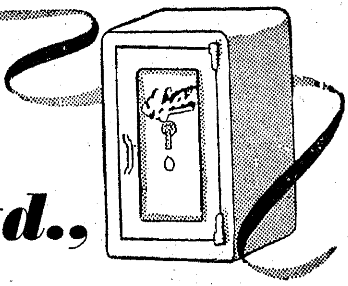

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